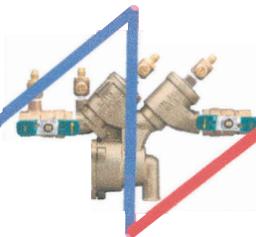


ASSOCIATE MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

THE CROSS CONNECTION CONTROL CORNER

John Farewell | Farewell's Backflow Testing & Repairs



KEEPING POTABLE WATER POTABLE

It has been said that if we learn nothing from history, we will be forced to relive it. At a young age I can remember my first lesson with what “Hot” felt like. Yes, my parents tried to warn me not to touch the stove, but I would have none of that. I had to learn on my own. Never again did I put my hand in fire, it was a lesson I only had to learn once.

Among the myriad of responsibilities that a water operator has, one is to assure that you have a good Cross Connection Control Program in place. Cooperation between all those involved will be the deciding factor as to whether or not your program will be effective. Below is a list of who needs to be involved and what their respective responsibilities are as taken from the New York State Cross Connection Control Manual.

STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

The Department of Health is authorized by the Public Health Law SS201 to supervise and regulate the sanitary aspects of water supplies. A community water supply system must be free of all sanitary hazards, including unprotected cross-connections. Accordingly, the Department can require the supplier of water to take preventive action against any water customer who may pose a threat to the public water system and see to it that such a customer is required by the supplier to install, test and maintain an acceptable backflow prevention device. The Department of Health also requires that customers prevent cross-connections in the on-premises piping systems.

SUPPLIER OF WATER

The supplier of waters responsibility for cross-connection control is found in Part 5 of the State Sanitary Code, Section 5-1.31 entitled, “Cross Connection Control.” The supplier is required to determine the degree of hazard that a facility poses to his water system, and to require that an acceptable backflow prevention containment device be installed, tested, operated and maintained and that adequate records of maintenance and repairs be kept.



CUSTOMER

The customer has primary responsibility of preventing contaminants from entering the potable water piping system and subsequently, the public water system. He shall, as required by the supplier of water per Part 5, Section 5-1.31 (a) and (b), install, test, operate, maintain and keep adequate maintenance and repair records for every backflow prevention device installed to provide containment. Additionally, as stated in Part 5, Section 5-1.31 (c), the customer shall prevent cross-connection between the potable water piping system and any other piping system within his facility.

The reported backflow incident seems to be in the decline. I attribute this to all those who have taken responsibility and have done their part in establishing and maintaining a good Cross-Connection Control Program. Let's keep up the good work so we don't have to learn our lessons twice. 💧💧💧