



# Tucson Water Backflow News

## **NEW BACKFLOW PREVENTION ORDINANCE ADOPTED**

On May 24, 2004, the Mayor and Council adopted the enclosed new backflow prevention ordinance. The ordinance becomes effective on July 1 and can be printed from the Tucson Water Website at [www.ci.tucson.az.us/water/customer\\_svcs/backflow/backflow.htm](http://www.ci.tucson.az.us/water/customer_svcs/backflow/backflow.htm). It is also available in hard copy at the New Services Counter. Thanks to all of you for the time you took to review and comment on the ordinance and for your support at the public hearing.

## **NEW NOTIFICATION SCHEDULE**

As of July 1, 2004, we will be changing our notification procedures for the annual test requirements and for discontinuance of service to comply with the new ordinance (Sec. 27-80 (a) and (g)). We will send every customer a notification of his/her annual compliance date at least 45 days prior to that date. If we have not received a correct test form 15 days prior to the compliance date, we will send a final notice to the customer advising that failure to meet the applicable codes by the compliance date will result in discontinuance of water service and a \$75.00 compliance fee will be added to the customer's water bill. The compliance fee will be charged only when the water service is physically turned off. Neither of the notices will be sent by certified mail.

Our goal is to work with testers, tenants, and property owners to bring facilities into compliance. The inspectors are there to assist you and have the authority to grant time extensions under limited circumstances.

## **PREPRINTED TEST FORMS**

Beginning on July 1, 2004, we will include preprinted test forms on the back of the first and final annual notification letters (a sample letter and form is included in this mailing).

It is our hope that these forms will reduce errors and save time in the office. We recognize that some testers would prefer to continue using the three-part NCR forms. The new three-part forms will be available at the New Services Counter or you can print the form from our Website.

## **NEW SERVICES COUNTER HOURS**

All business relating to backflow prevention, except tester and equipment registration will now be done at the New Services Counter. The New Services Counter is open 8:00 - 4:00. Please arrive early enough to complete your over-the-counter business by 4:00. We encourage you to mail in your test forms and log-in sheets.

## **INSPECTORS AS SPECIALISTS**

Tucson Water is pleased to announce that all of our Inspectors and John Kmiec, the Inspections Supervisor are now certified as Cross-Connection Control Specialists. This level of training allows us to give you better customer service.

## **EARLY TESTING – NOT!**

The new Backflow Prevention Ordinance (Sec. 27-80) does not allow compliance testing to be done more than 45 days prior to the compliance date.

## **DO WE KNOW WHERE YOU ARE?**

It is important that we have your correct address, telephone, cell phone and fax numbers. If you move, please let us know right away so we can update our database.

## **POLICY ON 3.0 psi BUFFER**

It is Tucson Water's policy that all Reduced Pressure (RP) backflow prevention assemblies hold a 3.0 psi or greater buffer. A Hearing Committee recently reviewed and upheld this requirement. Any assembly not meeting this requirement will need to be repaired or replaced to be in compliance.