



Tucson Water Backflow News

www.tucsonaz.gov/water/backflow.htm

December 2007

AT LAST! AT LAST!

Our backflow internet data entry system has been working wonderfully for about 2 months. Testers who have been using it are pleased with how easy input is and how much time is saved. If you are not yet "online" and would like to be, send Mark an email at mark.titus@tucsonaz.gov. He will e-mail a user manual and pin number to the test system so you can try it out.

CUSTOMER INFORMATION TO BE MAILED

Enclosed with this newsletter is the insert that we will be including with the 45-day notices. Customers will begin receiving these inserts on November 29, 2007.

THANKS FOR YOU COOPERATION

Those of you with APA accounts have been faxing in your requests for permits. Having the faxed permit requests makes it easier to pull the permits and fax them back to you. The form is now on our website if you need another copy.

Also, faxed test reports have been reduced. Remember; only fax a test report if an Inspector requests it. And if you fax it, don't mail it! Then we don't end up processing dupes.

TIME CHANGE

We may not observe Daylight Savings Time, but our hours do change with the seasons. Because the sun is coming up later, the Inspectors will now be working from 6:30 a. m. to 3:00 p. m.

CHECK THE SERVICE ID

Speaking of the new database now is a good time to start adding the service ID to your records. The main identifying field used for test result input is the service ID. For example, fire protection BPA's do not have a meter, so the only way you can enter it is with the service ID. If you have that service ID, the data entry is much easier.

COLD WEATHER'S COMING

In 2006 we issued about 900 permits. In 2007, over 1800 were issued, a 100% increase!! We think a major reason so many new assemblies were installed was the freezing weather in January and February. Encourage your customers to weather-proof their backflows before a freeze takes it toll. But remember when insulating assemblies; don't cover the relief valve opening, tops of the test cocks, the shut-off valves, or the serial number identification tag. And don't forget the lockable cage to help prevent theft.

PLEASE USE NEW FORMS

We still receive test forms showing \$75 as the compliance fee. The fee has been \$80 for almost a year! This incorrect information confuses our customers. So please check the forms you are using and be sure it says \$80. An updated copy is on our website.

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Our new database is about 18 months old and we love it. Once you start your own test entry, you will too. If you have a clever idea for a name, let us know. We would like to call it something besides "database".

Happy
Holidays!

