



Tucson Water Backflow News

www.tucsonaz.gov/water/backflow.htm

OCTOBER 2008

SPECIAL EDITION!

SPOT TEST FAILURES

Every month our Cross Connection Control Specialists randomly spot test 40 assemblies. These spot tests are being done within 10 days of the assemblies' compliance test. Out of the 40 assemblies tested each month, the failure rate runs between 2.5% and 30%. We believe that anything above a 2.5% failure rate, one out of forty, is unacceptable for assemblies that were just tested and put into compliance.

We have been trying to figure out why the failure rate is so high and have come to this conclusion - bad testing procedures. On the spot tests that we do, the number one cause for failure is a relief valve that opens below 2 psi. or does not open at all. We believe that we are getting these results because when the tester did the compliance test:

- ❖ the relief valve was exercised prior to testing or
- ❖ the first reading of the gage (before it popped up above 2 psi) was not recorded or
- ❖ the relief valve reading was falsified.

It is every tester's responsibility to use proper test procedures. Remember, the test procedures require you to record the reading when the relief valve **FIRST** discharges; not after **EXERCISING** it and not after the reading **POPS UP** to an acceptable level. If the relief valve's first opening point is not at 2 psi or above, it must be repaired. This may involve just a cleaning or maybe the replacement of worn parts.

Remember, failing to use proper test procedures can result in the revocation of your Tucson Water testing privileges. We keep records of all failed spot tests to look for patterns. We look for what part of the assembly failed, when it was tested, and who tested it.

Using proper test procedures is good customer service. It can save you and your customer time and money.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation.