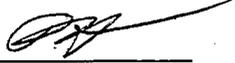


AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

DATE: 3/3/14 DEPARTMENT: PW - Water DEPT. HEAD SIGNATURE: 

SUBJECT: Backflow Prevention Program.

AUTHORITY: ID Code _____ IAR _____ City Ordinance/Code _____
(IF APPLICABLE)

BACKGROUND/SUMMARY OF ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:

Since the requirement to institute a backflow prevention & testing program was mandated by DEQ and an ordinance passed by City Council city staff has been investigating options for the management of this requirement. Initial thoughts were to use a module from Caselle for tracking backflow which would use our existing customer database. We held a training session with Caselle to determine if this was a possible solution.

A second solution was then presented to us by Backflow Solutions Inc. (BSI) who contacted me in September, 2013 following a Mt. Express article. City staff has since investigated this option and are bringing it forward for your consideration. The benefits of this program are as follows:

- BSI would build a database and track all backflow devices on the city water system
- BSI would enter all test results into the database
- BSI would send out annual notifications to customers for the annual test
- BSI would track that the testers certification is current
- BSI has an 800 number for answering the majority of backflow test questions
- BSI's database is available to the city on-line
- For an additional fee BSI has certified testers who can come to Hailey to assist with more difficult questions or site visits

The \$495 cost is possible as BSI charges \$12.95 for each test result sent in. This cost is paid directly to BSI by the certified tester. Undoubtedly this cost would be passed through to the individual property owners.

With the Our Town newsletter we have begun the necessary steps to collect information from customers with a survey form. We would also plan a workshop for the local landscape companies and any independent testers. It is anticipated that this process will be on-going for the next several years to track and test all of the devices. The Caselle program does have the reporting and tracking capabilities that we would need. Not using BSI would save the \$12.95 charge for customers.

Water Department personnel would be available to meet with customers for specific questions and will work to identify additional customers requiring the annual test as not everyone will complete the survey. They would also need to conduct full inspections of businesses which are at a higher risk for backflow devices. Front office staff would be able to answer some basic questions, e.g. "Why do I have to do this?, Who required this test?", etc.; but other questions would be referred to the Water Department to answer. We will also post on our website FAQs for backflow testing.

I have attached a sample FAQ for your review.

FISCAL IMPACT / PROJECT FINANCIAL ANALYSIS: Caselle # _____
 Budget Line Item # _____ YTD Line Item Balance \$ _____
 Estimated Hours Spent to Date: _____ Estimated Completion Date: _____
 Staff Contact: _____ Phone # _____
 Comments: _____

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT BY OTHER AFFECTED CITY DEPARTMENTS: (IF APPLICABLE)
 City Administrator City Attorney City Clerk

BACKFLOW FAQs

Why was this testing program started?

A backflow testing program requirement has been in place for many years and is a DEQ requirement for public water systems. DEQ recently required the City of Hailey to begin the process of tracking all backflow protection devices. The City Council adopted an ordinance in December, 2013 to begin this program.

Are we the only city in Idaho enforcing backflow regulations?

No, this is a statewide requirement. Larger cities such as Nampa and Meridian have been doing this for years along with United Water in Boise. Smaller cities have been slowly brought into compliance by DEQ.

Can't my home or business be "grandfathered" in?

There is no grandfathering of this requirement. This is a health and safety issue and all connections requiring a backflow preventer need to have one installed.

What is backflow?

Backflow is the undesirable reversal of water flow in a potable water system through a cross connection due to high pressure on the customer side or low pressure in the City's water system. This situation may allow liquids, gases, non-potable water, and other substances, from any source to enter the City's water system.

What is a cross connection?

A cross connection is an actual or potential connection between a public water system line and any other line, which contains water or fluids of a questionable or unknown source or quality.

What is a backflow device?

A backflow device can be many different types of mechanical protection to keep dangerous chemicals from entering the city water system. The most common is a double check valve which is commonly used on irrigation systems. Depending on the situation there are other devices that provide greater protection. The type of device required is mandated by DEQ based upon the water connection and the danger presented.

Why is a backflow preventer needed?

A backflow preventer is intended to prevent non-potable water with contaminants from inadvertently entering the city's water system. Every year there are water system contamination cases caused by missing or non-operative backflow devices that sicken or kill people.

Why do we need to test annually?

Backflow devices do not have an infinite life and are mechanical devices with working internal pieces. A piece of debris or calcification of water can cause the device to stop working. An annual test is a requirement of anyone who has one in place. The City of Hailey has had

backflow devices on park irrigation systems for many years and has had to replace them periodically.

What happens if I don't comply?

If either you do not have a backflow device where you should or your device fails its annual test you have 10 days in which to install or replace the device. Failure to comply means your water service will be disconnected by city personnel until compliance is achieved.

Who does the test?

Anyone who is a certified backflow tester can test your device. Many landscape companies will have certified testers on staff. We encourage you to call a number of testers to determine who will conduct your test.

Additional information:

Additional information is available at many websites including www.backflow.com and the American Backflow Prevention Association at www.abpa.org.



OUR TOWN

Sustaining Hailey's Community

March 2014
Issue No. 126

Visit us online at
www.haileycityhall.org

Message from the Mayor

Water Conservation and Conjunctive Management

An all-day seminar on Conjunctive Management and Water Conservation is being hosted on Friday, March 7th in Hailey at the Community Campus. Seminar information is on strategies for sustainable and collaborative water use as we enter a new era of water administration and management.

Afternoon workshops will be for water saving practices for agriculture, residential and commercial applications.

- How to install/convert to Drought Tolerant Lawns and Pollinator Gardens
- Commercial and Residential Landscaping— How to save 30-70% on water use
- Precision Crop Metrics for Agriculture
- New agricultural programs & data regarding water/energy savings from Idaho Power

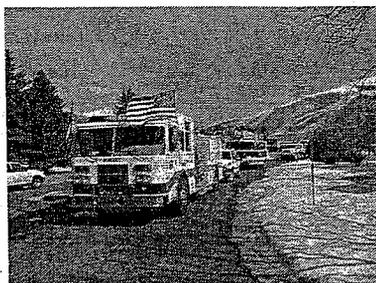
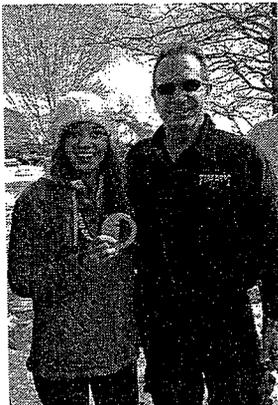
Morning speakers and panel will discuss:

- The WR Valley aquifer, hydrology and USGS-IDWR groundwater flow model
- Idaho Conjunctive Management and Rule
- Groundwater District formation
- Conservation, Mitigation and other Strategies

More info at: <http://www.ext.uidaho.edu/blaine> or call 788-5585 to register; \$15 includes lunch.

Kaitlyn Farrington and Hailey Fire Chief **Craig Aberbach** share a moment prior to a "Welcome Home" parade through Hailey. Kaitlyn won gold again from Hailey: Mayor

Haemmerle presented the gold medalist with a Key to the City pendant.



Water Quality

Backflow Prevention Program Begins

Hailey will implement a comprehensive backflow testing program this season. All residential irrigation systems fall under Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) regulations for irrigation system testing of backflow prevention devices. Inspections of businesses, a more extensive process, fall under DEQ rules as well.

A backflow device is a mechanical piece which keeps dangerous chemicals from entering the city water system. The most common is a double check valve which is used on irrigation systems. There are other devices that provide greater protection in certain business environments and circumstances .

How will the inspection program be implemented?

1. A brief survey is distributed with this mailing. All customers, both residential and business, are asked to return the survey immediately.
2. From your survey information we will be able to help you identify whether or not you need an inspection, and what type. A list of certified testers will be provided on our website
3. You may use a certified tester of your choice. Your landscape company may have some recommendations and be able to perform your test during spring irrigation turn-on activities. The scheduling and cost of tests are your responsibility.
4. We will maintain a data-base of your backflow equipment and tests, from which we will be able to send reminders and information relative to the annual process.

Questions can be directed to Hailey's utility billing clerk at 788-9830 ex 22 or to utility.billing@haileycityhall.org

Calendar

Important Dates

City Council	03/03/14 and 03/17/14
Art & Historic Preservation Commission..	03/13/14
Hailey Public Library Board	03/19/14
Parks & Lands Board	03/05/14
Planning & Zoning Meetings	03/10/14
Tree Committee.....	03/13/14
Urban Renewal Agency	03/12/14

Backflow Assembly Survey

Name on Account	First	Last
Physical Address		
Water Account Number (if Known)		
SYSTEM INFORMATION		
Permanent Lawn Irrigation System	Yes	No
Fire Sprinkler System	Yes	No
Boiler	Yes	No
Hot tub/Spa directly piped to Water Supply	Yes	No
Alternate Water Source (well, pond, etc.)	Yes	No
Other Equipment Connections (soda machine, refrigeration)	Yes	No

Please return this information to Hailey City Hall, 115 Main St S. Hailey, ID 83333