



# CITY OF FORT WAYNE

THOMAS C. HENRY, MAYOR

April 26, 2019

## Cross Connection Control and Backflow Prevention News

*From Fort Wayne City Utilities*

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#### ❖ **REMINDER: TEMPORARY ("CONSTRUCTION") METER PROGRAM & BACKFLOW PREVENTION REQUIREMENTS**

With construction season starting back up, City Utilities would like to remind you of our policies regarding temporary ("construction") meters. Effective April 1, 2018, backflow prevention is required on all temporary water meters due to the varying types of direct or indirect cross connections and varying degrees of hazards that can occur at temporary water service connections. Either an approved Reduced Pressure Principal Assembly (RP) or an approved Air Gap (AG) must be installed on the downstream side of the water meter and upstream of any cross connection. Test results for RPs must be provided by the customer before the temporary water meter will be issued. Tests for AGs will be performed and reported by a City Utilities Certified Backflow Device Tester at the time the temporary water meter is to be picked up.

Your office may be contacted to test a backflow device for a temporary water meter. If it is an existing device that is being utilized in the field and is due for annual testing, the test may be performed at the jobsite. If it is a new device that must be tested before the temporary water meter will be issued, you may test the device at your facility if you have access to a water connection to do so or you may call City Utilities' Water Maintenance and Service Department at **260-427-1182** to schedule a time to utilize a fire hydrant to test the device near their office at 415 E. Wallace St. Fort Wayne, IN 46803.

#### ❖ **NEW OPTION FOR DISCONNECTING IRRIGATION SYSTEMS**

Property owners may choose to discontinue using their lawn irrigation system for a variety of reasons, but backflow prevention requirements are still in effect and enforced unless the system is *physically* disconnected. Simply turning the shut-off valve in the off position does not exclude the property owner from backflow prevention requirements.

In past years, our office has directed customers who are not utilizing their lawn irrigation systems and wish to disconnect the system that they must do so downstream of the water meter. City Utilities is excited to announce that starting May 2019, our customers will have an additional option of requesting City Utilities to remove the irrigation water meter and cap the line at the incoming supply.

Enclosed you will find an updated "Disconnecting Irrigation Systems" handout that summarizes the customers options and instructions. This handout is also available on our website at [www.cityoffortwayne.org/utilities/backflow-prevention.html](http://www.cityoffortwayne.org/utilities/backflow-prevention.html).

*\*Please also be aware that effective May 2019, City Utilities may remove an outdoor irrigation water meter and cap the line at the incoming supply as a means of enforcement if compliance is not met.\**

#### ❖ **REMINDER TO ENTER AND PAY FOR YOUR TESTS IN A TIMELY MANNER**

Entering your tests and paying for them promptly will prevent your customer from receiving enforcement notices. "Fort Wayne Code of Ordinances, Chapter 52: Water and Watercourses" requires test results to be submitted within ten calendar days, and its good practice to submit the test even sooner if the customer is non-compliant to mitigate their chance of having their water service terminated. If you have trouble with entering or paying for your tests entries, please contact Aqua Backflow.

Sincerely,

*Jessica Caplinger*

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City Utilities welcomes your suggestions for information you would like to see on our webpage or recommendations that could make our program more effective. Please contact our office if you have ideas, questions, or concerns regarding the Cross Connection Control & Backflow Prevention Program.

***Please post and distribute this newsletter to the staff in your office.***

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## Disconnecting Irrigation Systems

*Protecting our water from contamination is everyone's responsibility. Property owners should be aware of their responsibilities associated with having a lawn irrigation system.*



Due to the bacterial and chemical contaminants found on lawns, irrigation systems are considered high hazards with potential to backflow into the public water distribution system. For this reason, these systems must have an approved backflow prevention device installed and tested annually. It is the owner's responsibility to ensure that cross connections do not exist and that the backflow prevention device is maintained.

Property owners may choose to discontinue using their lawn irrigation system for a variety of reasons, but backflow prevention requirements are still in effect and enforced unless the system is physically disconnected. Simply turning the shut-off valve in the off position does not exclude the property owner from backflow prevention requirements.



### Disconnection Options

1. **Disconnection on Private Line:** The system may be physically disconnected by the property owner on the private line downstream of the City Utilities irrigation water meter. If the property owner chooses to physically disconnect their system, City Utilities recommends consulting with and/or hiring a licensed plumber/contractor or professional irrigation company to ensure the job is getting done right. This option may be ideal if there is additional plumbing supplied by the irrigation water meter, including outdoor garden hose spigots that you intend to continue utilizing. The disconnection must take place downstream of the irrigation water meter. Common products used to cap the line include PVC and copper caps or fittings.

If you are ready to begin the process or have already completed the process of physically disconnecting your lawn irrigation system on the private line, please contact Aqua Backflow at (847) 742-2296 or [Info@AquaBackflow.com](mailto:Info@AquaBackflow.com) to ensure our records are up-to-date.



2. **Disconnection at Water Meter:** The property owner may request City Utilities to remove the irrigation water meter at the incoming supply and cap the line. Be mindful that this option involves abandoning all plumbing supplied by the irrigation water meter. The irrigation water meter must be removed by City Utilities and not the customer or plumber/irrigation company.

If you would like to request City Utilities to remove the irrigation water meter at the incoming supply and cap the line abandoning any plumbing supplied by this meter, please contact City Utilities at 260-427-2543 or [CrossConnectionControl@cityoffortwayne.org](mailto:CrossConnectionControl@cityoffortwayne.org).

\*Please note, a building permit is not required to remove a backflow prevention device and/or physically disconnect a lawn irrigation system.

*This document is a resource for reference, and City Utilities is not liable for unintended consequences on the actions of the property owner. City Utilities is not responsible for the failure to adequately install a cap/plug to a terminated end point, after the supply line is pressurized.*