



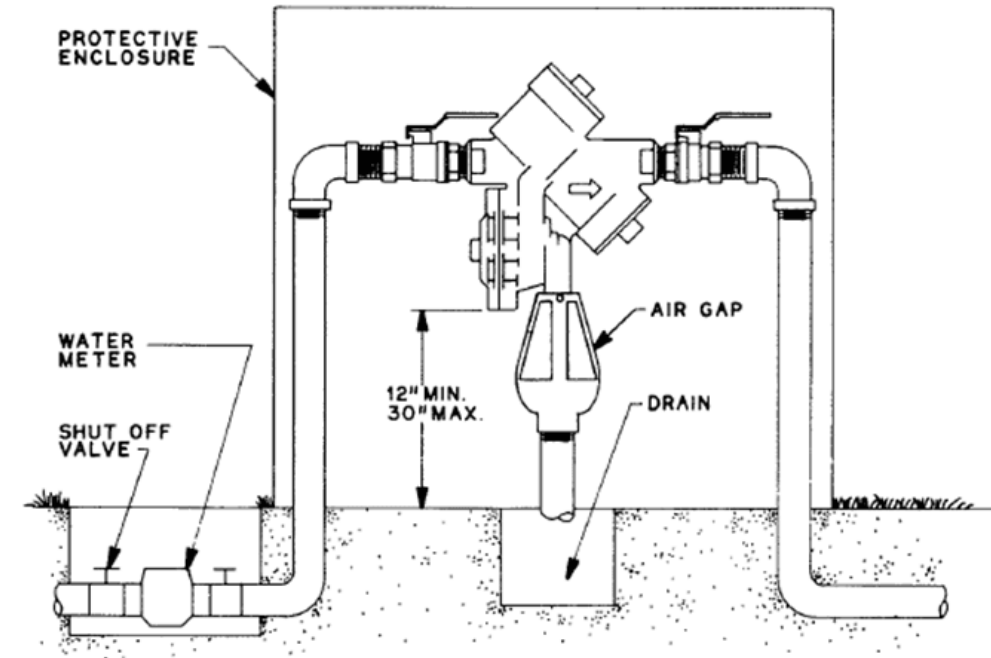
Backflow Assembly Testing

Amending the Enforcement Process

CITY COUNCIL | May 5, 2020

What is a backflow prevention assembly?

- ❑ Plumbing device - creates an “air gap” between the city water supply and private water lines
- ❑ Prevents potentially contaminated water from flowing back into the city system
- ❑ Required at “cross connections” between the city water supply and non-potable fluids
 - ❑ sprinkler systems, swimming pools, fountains



Why is testing required?

- ❑ State law requires annual testing
(WAC 246-290-490)
 - ❑ This law has not changed as a result of COVID-19
- ❑ Safety of the city water supply
 - ❑ If a backflow assembly fails, the city water supply is at risk of contamination



Context

- ❑ In 2017, the CPD update to the code compliance regulations made the penalty for a testing violation a civil infraction
- ❑ In practice, issuing hundreds of civil infractions each spring/summer has been extremely onerous for staff
 - ❑ Requires hand writing each carbon copy citation
 - ❑ Must be processed and mailed from the municipal court
- ❑ Prior to the COVID-19 emergency, staff were considering a code amendment to address this issue

PREMIERE FILL APPROPRIATE TO EACH EVENT

DATE OF ACCIDENT

RANK AND SIGNATURE OF OFFICER

FIRST NAME

LAST NAME

ADDRESS

CITY/STATE/ZIP CODE

DOB

RACE

DI STATE

WORK PHONE

VEHICLE LICENSE NUMBER

ACCIDENT INVOLVED

YES

NO

DATE

TIME

DMV

YES

NO

Proposed Amendment

- ❑ Eliminates civil infractions and monetary penalties related to testing violations
- ❑ Water shut-off remains the end point for enforcement
 - ❑ Necessary to protect the water supply
 - ❑ Shut off comes only after a series of warnings
 - ❑ Unrelated to water bills – City will not shut off water due to late payment
- ❑ Mayor Wong edits (with staff revisions)



Customer Assistance

- ❑ Staff are available to troubleshoot testing challenges
- ❑ If customer is unable to cover the cost of the test, the City can connect to resources through the Emergency Assistance Program
- **Contact the Call Center for assistance: 206-275-7626**



Motion

1. Suspend the City Council Rules of Procedures Section 6.3 requiring a second reading of an ordinance
2. Adopt Ordinance No. 20C-07, amending MICC 15.14.060 and MICC 15.14.080 related to enforcement of certification and testing of Backflow Prevention Assemblies *[as revised]*



Thank you

