

ABPA Utah Chapter

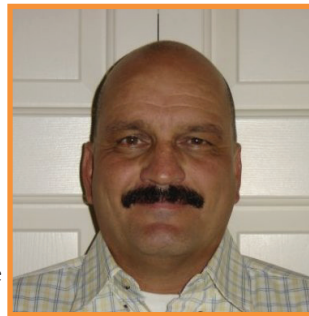
Newsletter

Summer 2015

Utah Chapter- American Backflow Prevention Association
Serving Six Regions in the State of Utah

Presidents Message

Hope everyone is having a great summer!
As I work with water systems throughout the state, I can't help but think how important Cross Connection Control Programs are, how far we have come and how much work there is left to do. Systems are recognizing the importance of a strong program and are actively seeking out guidance, training, and instruction in setting up and strengthening their programs.
I know with the knowledge and skills of the Utah ABPA, we can help even more systems achieve their goals of having a strong and effective program.
I would like to encourage all members in their respective discipline of Backflow Prevention & Cross Connection Control to be a voice for our industry, the climate is right for us to make great strides in promoting our goals.
Thank all of you for supporting a DIFFICULT (but one of the most important) aspect of Drinking Water Systems. Always remember at the end of the day our goal is to provide Safe Drinking Water to the last free flowing tap.



Brian Pattee
UTABPA Board President

Members in Action!

Nate Turner
Murray City Water

*Have a great picture?
Please send your pictures to
wolfe@waterpro.net and they may
be featured in an upcoming issue*



Contact Us

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Content:

- President's Message
 - Sleep Easy with Proper Insurance
- Member Spotlight, Marie Kesler
 - To Err is Human
- Upcoming Training & Conferences

Sleep Easier with Proper Insurance

By Phil Millett

After several years in the irrigation industry it became imperative to learn and understand backflow basics. I had installed backflow preventors but that was the extent of my knowledge. When I had an issue I would simply take the device apart and then rebuild it – hoping this cured the issue. Looking back this was a foolish and unwise practice. After seeing several RPZ devices discharge I began looking closely at where and how to install them to minimize risks when a full discharge scenario occurred. As I conveyed information to customers (particularly on retrofit applications), I was able to up sale other devices such as PRV's and Strainers to ensure proper operation of the backflow. Often the clients I dealt with wanted to pay the minimum amount to get the job done.

Two weeks after installing a 1.5" RPZ at a home – I received the dreaded phone call. "The thing you installed has water coming out of it and has flooded our basement." I immediately began going through what-if anything-I may have done wrong. The home owners filed a claim with their insurance that then tried to subrogate with my liability insurance. It was comforting to know that I had the proper coverage if I was at fault.

How the rest unfolded was rather astonishing to me

– the device was sent with statements to a private engineer. He found fault with the installation. After reading through the summary I found several errors in the description (such as a PVB was installed not an RPZ). I immediately started educating (like I had the home owner previous to installation) about what the devices do and how they work. It was reassuring to know that I had the knowledge needed to support my work and if I were found at fault, the proper insurance to cover any damages. After educating those involved it was deemed that I was not at fault.

Outside of those directly involved in the backflow industry, little is known about these devices. As more units are installed we will see issues arising from lack of knowledge possessed by those outside of our industry. It is imperative that we protect ourselves and business by having proper insurance, and knowledge to defend ourselves and the industry as whole. I hope everyone reading this will take the time to review with their insurer what coverage they have and where it may be lacking so we all can sleep a little easier at night.

Phil Millett works for Marshall-Rodeno Associated and is the manufacturer representative for Apollo valves.



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Manufacturer Representative for:





ABPA Utah Chapter

Member Spotlight

Marie Kesler
St. George Water



ROBIN WILLIAMS

YEARS IN BACKFLOW: 7



FAVORITE MOVIE: The Horse Whisperer, Patch Adams

PATCH ADAMS

FAVORITE TV SHOW:
Mountain Men, HGTV,
The Voice



FAVORITE BOOK/

AUTHOR: Under the Dixie Sun/Craig Childs, Zane Grey



FAVORITE FOOD: Tacos

FAVORITE MUSIC/BAND:
Country - Eric Church, George Strait



HOBBIES: Photography, ATVs, Horseback Riding

COLLECTIONS: Hopi Kachinas

DREAM VACATION: A week in a cabin on Cedar Mountain

PERSON I MOST ADMIRE IS: Ben Carson

BEST FRIEND: Mom



INSTRUMENTS: Piano

NICKNAMES: Blu

MOTTO: Remember to be thankful

FAVORITE MATERIAL POSSESSION: Family pictures

MOST PEOPLE DON'T KNOW THIS ABOUT ME: I love chocolate peanut clusters!



FAVORITE SPORT: PBR



BEST PART OF MY JOB: Problem solving with the Citizens.



Introducing the ABPA Member Spotlight!
The backflow community in Utah is small but growing and we would like to get to know everyone better. If you have someone you would like to see featured or would like to do it yourself please email wolfe@waterpro.net.

Backflow Specialist
Testing, Installation, Repairs

Bruce Kegel
Backflow Technician & Master Plumber

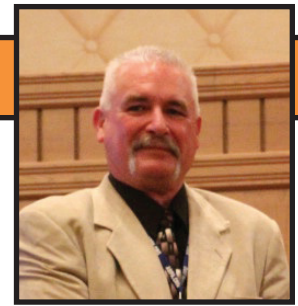
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BBKegel@aol.com

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To Err is Human

By Bob Prince

Wow! We have all witnessed similar installs. Here's an RPZ installed 14 feet above the floor.

In order to test this assembly you have to stand on top of the 10 foot step ladder while it's leaning against the wall. This custodial closet was not even big enough to accommodate the water heater; it was 12 feet above the floor on a ledge that was apparently designed specifically for it. All of this was located in a two foot square closet. It was extremely tight for even an average sized person to fit into. You can also see that the RPZ is located directly above an electrical switch, electrical J-box and other electrical connections.

How do we solve this problem for future installations? What if we start with the architect or engineer that designed the building and educate them about plumbing codes, cross connection program requirements and limitations of assembly installations? A prime example in this case is the requirement to provide a permanent platform or some other type of safe access to any backflow assembly installed more than 5 feet off the ground.



Next, let's get the plumber on board. Plans showed where this assembly was to be installed; but has the plumber been given the education needed to know that this placement is unacceptable? Does he know that a tester will have to attach gauges and test it annually to satisfy plumbing code requirements? Has he witnessed video of an RP in full dump? Visualizing these scenarios should trigger his common sense

causing him to question the plans. This is definitely not a safe or correct installation. His understanding of these dynamics will help him convey the need to revise/redraw the plans.

On to the building inspector. We all depend on the inspector to know the code for what he or she is inspecting. As a bare minimum they should know where to look and/or who to ask about questionable design and installation flaws. Are efforts being made to educate those inspectors we depend on to protect us from unknowing contractors, installers etc.?

What about during the plan review? Issues with this installation could have been reversed before they were issues at all?

Someone from the Engineering, Inspection and/or the Water Department should have caught this but if none of them are given the knowledge to recognize problems during this stage, we will continue to see installations such as the one illustrated here. If installs like this are allowed to remain as is, everyone that has to deal with any of the equipment in the area will be subjected to the hazards that lurk there.

Lastly, the Backflow Assembly Tester. I will admit that I caved into the pressure from the builder and plumber to test the assembly so that the Occupancy Permit could be issued and they could be happy. What I should have done was refuse to test the assembly until it was installed correctly. The assembly did pass the initial test and I did note in the comment section of the test report that this was an incorrect installation and should be corrected as soon as possible. Time will tell if my concerns were addressed.

Bob Prince is the owner of Backflow Services, L.L.C.



Do you have a "To Err Is Human" Picture?

If so send it with a brief explanation of your discovery and it may be used in a future newsletter. Email to wolfe@waterpro.net or send to Utah Chapter ABPA, PO Box 729, Draper, Utah 84020

Upcoming Training & Conferences

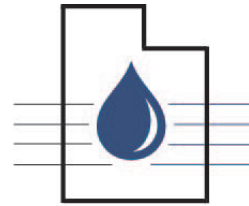


2015 Western Regional Backflow Conference

September 28-29, 2015
The Orleans
Las Vegas, Nevada

2016 Utah Chapter ABPA Educational Conference

February 5, 2016
The Living Planet Aquarium
Draper, Utah



ABPA Utah Chapter



LOVELAND LIVING PLANET
AQUARIUM

Backflow Traing Services

Class II Tester Certification and Re-Certification courses



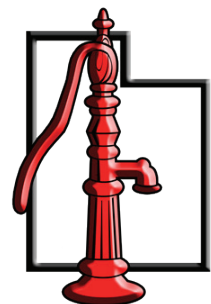
Date	Class	Location
August 10-14	Tester Certification	Sandy, SLCC Miller Campus
August 12-14	Tester Re-Certification	Sandy, SLCC Miller Campus
November 2-6	Tester Certification	North Salt Lake, Public Works
November 4-6	Tester Re-Certification	North Salt Lake, Public Works

Registration and other dates & locations are available online:
<http://backflowtrainingservices.com>

Rural Water Association of Utah

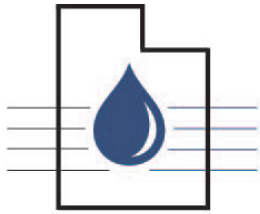
Class I Administrator Certification and Re-Certification courses

Date	Class	Location
November 2-5	Administrator Certification	Utah County
November 3-5	Administrator Re-Certification	Utah County
December 7-10	Administration Certification	Davis County
December 8-10	Administrator Re-Certification	Davis County



Registration and other dates & locations are available online:
<http://www.rwau.net/RegisterForCrossConnTraining.html>

Summer 2015



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PO Box 729
Draper, Utah 84020

ABPA Utah Chapter



Take our quick online survey about local Backflow Programs and be automatically entered to win a \$50 gift certificate from Scheels. Results will be featured in our next ABPA Utah Chapter newsletter.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/UTabpaSysSurvey>

A link to the survey is available at www.utabpa.org

Utah Chapter of the American Backflow Association

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Region 2 Director

Currently vacant

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Region 4 Director

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