CITY OF TWIN FALLS BACKFLOW PREVENTION PROGRAM FAQ'S

- **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 Twin Falls to begin the process of tracking all backflow protection devices. The City Council adopted this requirement March 2014 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 drinking water system due to changes in pressure, such as high pressure on the customer side or low pressure in the City's water system. When the reversed flow of water passes through a cross connection, liquids, gases, non-potable water, and other substances from any source enter the City's water system.

- **What is 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 devise?**

  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 brings any deficiencies to light   The City of Twin Falls has had backflow devices on parks and pressure irrigation systems for many years and has had to replace them periodically.

- **What happens if I don't comply?**

  Because this program is mandated by DEQ, the City of Twin Falls has set its goal at 100% compliance. We will continue to pursue communication with you to foster a sound understanding of this important health and safety requirement.

- **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 for the best price.

Additional information:

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

Important Backflow Assembly Survey - Please Complete and Return to Twin Falls Water Dept.

Name on account : First		Last
Physical Address:		
Account Number (if known)		email
SYSTEM INFORMATION		
Permanent Lawn Irrigation	Yes	No
Fire Sprinkler System	Yes	No
Boiler	Yes	No
Hot Tub/Spa dirctly piped to water supply	Yes	No
Alternate Water Source (well, pond, etc.)	Yes	No
Other Eqipment Connections (soda machine, refrigeration)	Yes	No

Please return this information to City of Twin Falls Water Dept.

119 South Park Ave W, Twin Falls, Idaho 83301

Questions? Call Water Dept, 208-736-2275 Info: www.tfid.org/depts/water/backflow