

ABPA 24th Annual Seminar OESAC Application

TIME	ORGANIZATION	SPEAKER	AGENDA
8:00-9:00	Paradigm Swift	Cole Chatterton	Finding your Leadership Voice
9:00-10:00	University of Southern California	Paul Schwartz	Have we learned to properly speak backflow yet?
10:00-10:15	<u>BREAK</u>		
10:15-11:15	Tacoma Water	Scot Hallenberg	Cross Connection control for marijuana producers/processors
11:15-12:15	City of Corvallis Public Works Benton County Oregon	Carl Schaumburg and Robert Baker	Common backflow violations observed in licensed facilities
12:15-1:15	<u>LUNCH</u>		
1:15-1:45	Region 7 Director	Tim Tuskin	The critical role of collaboration and integrity with the backflow prevention industry
1:45-2:45	ASTRA	Jimi Hendrix Angel Tarango	Mobile Backflow Training Solutions
2:45-3:00	<u>BREAK</u>		
3:00-3:30	Oregon Health Authority, Drinking Water Services	Molly Keller	Drinking Water Services & Backflow Program updates
3:30-4:30	TVWD	Kahlil Howell	PEX Pipe Vulnerabilities: A known but overlooked conduit for chemical contamination

Cole Chatterton, Paradigm Swift

Professional Background

Cole's past experiences in the professional arena include the restaurant industry as a regional project manager, national account management with the Xerox Corporation, small business developer/owner, and founder of a non-profit called Weathered Hands & Hearts.

Cole's education and certifications include a BS in Business/Project Management and a MBA from George Fox University, Marketing, Six Sigma, Lean, ISO, Baldrige Assessor, and Career Coach. The committees I currently invest my time with include Diversity Internship Program, Community Outreach Advisory Council, Forward Edge, Fuller Organization, and Unit Change Team for Critical Race Theory. He currently teaches at seven institutions and is the business department chair at Portland Community College's Cascade campus. Cole also provides business consulting, corporate training, and executive coaching services through his company Paradigm Swift.

Abstract

In a world where leadership often feels scripted and inauthentic, "Finding Your Leadership Voice" challenges audiences to move beyond mimicking others and discover the power of leading from their true selves. Through compelling stories, interactive insights, and practical frameworks, participants will learn how to identify their authentic leadership voice, overcome the fear of being vulnerable in leadership roles, and create genuine connections that drive meaningful change in their organizations and communities.

Paul Schwartz, University of Southern California

Professional Background

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Paul received his Bachelor of Science Degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Southern California. He retired in 2019, after serving for 42 years as Chief Engineer of the U.S.C. Foundation for Cross-Connection Control and Hydraulic Research, which included responsibilities to oversee the Laboratory and Field Evaluation Program; instruct at the Foundation's training courses; and coordinate the update of the Foundation's Manual of Cross-Connection Control. Paul also maintains a Professional Engineer's License in the State of California.

Abstract

This presentation will discuss how the cross-connection control community needs to effectively communicate about backflow prevention. A different approach is necessary depending upon the audience, such as government agencies, administrative authorities, general public, and co-workers. Understanding the basic properties of hydraulics will help to communicate the need for proper backflow protection.

Scot Hallenberg,

Professional Background

Scott has been employed with Tacoma Water for 28 years and currently manages the Water Quality Assurance & Operations Group. He is responsible for oversight of many regulatory programs including source and distribution system monitoring, operational water quality programs including cross-connection, unidirectional and conventional flushing, online analyzer calibration/maintenance and water quality emergency response. Prior to joining Tacoma Water he spent 10 years in the US Navy as an Engineering Laboratory Technician aboard a nuclear powered submarine and as a Nuclear Power Plant Supervisor/Instructor at a land based prototype.

Scott is a member of the AWWA and ABPA and serves on the State of Washington Operator Certification Advisory Committee and Relevancy Review Committee. He is also Vice Chair of the PNWS/AWWA Cross-Connection Control Committee. He also owns a small consulting business conducting trainings and helping private and public water systems with cross-connection control and water quality programs.

Abstract

With approval of various laws and Initiatives the marijuana business has been growing rapidly. The production and processing of marijuana presents some hazards to our distribution systems that must be addressed through effective cross-connection control practices. This presentation will outline different types of water use that may be found in various grow operations and methods to protect the distribution system as well as the customer. The presentation will also cover how to determine if a grow operation is present and ways to work with the customer and regulators to ensure protection of the Purveyors distribution system. We will also touch on some of the legal ramifications given the actions by the US Attorney General and Judicial system regarding legalization of marijuana by individual States.

Carl Schaumburg, City of Corvallis Public Works

Professional Background

Carl brings over three decades of hands-on experience in construction, water treatment, and utility operations. For 30 years, he worked as a contractor until the economic downturn in 2012 dramatically impacted the industry. Despite facing significant setbacks—including the bankruptcy of a major vendor—Carl persevered, determined to find a new path forward.

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An unexpected opportunity arose when a former employee introduced him to an open position at the Camp Adair water treatment plant. Carl was hired and quickly discovered that the role encompassed far more than just water operations—he was also responsible for wastewater operations, meter reading, grounds maintenance, and more. It was during this time that Carl developed a deep passion for water treatment, especially while operating one of Oregon’s oldest water plants in what was once the state’s second-largest city.

A chance encounter at the gym led to a life-changing connection with the founder of the Water Environment Technologies (WET) program at Linn-Benton Community College. With support and mentorship, Carl was able to enroll in the program, funding his education through part-time construction work while building a lasting friendship that helped shape his future in the field.

After 2.5 years at Camp Adair, Carl transitioned to the City of Corvallis, joining the water distribution team. Two years later, he advanced to lead the Backflow Prevention and Cross-Connection Control Program, a role he continues to hold with dedication and pride. Carl’s unique journey—from contractor to utility specialist—is a testament to resilience, adaptability, and a true passion for public service and water quality.

Robert Baker, Benton County

Professional Background

Robert is a Registered Environmental Health Specialist with 19 years of experience serving Benton County. In his role, Robert conducts inspections of a wide range of facilities, including restaurants, mobile food units, hotels, motels, pools, spas, daycare centers, RV parks, school lunch programs, organizational camps, and

contract sites such as fraternities, sororities, and assisted living facilities. He is also responsible for all plan reviews of new establishments to ensure compliance with the Oregon Food Code.

Robert earned his bachelor's degree in Environmental Health and Science from Oregon State University in 2005. He has been married for 34 years and is a proud father of two and grandfather to one.

Abstract

Backflow prevention plays a critical role in protecting public health and ensuring the integrity of our drinking water systems. This presentation will explore why backflow prevention is essential, outline the typical installation process, and highlight common violations observed during field inspections. Attendees will gain practical insight through real-world examples of non-compliant assemblies and learn about effective strategies for correcting these issues. Whether you're new to cross-connection control or looking to strengthen your enforcement and compliance efforts, this session offers valuable information to support safe and reliable water service.

Tim Tuskin, Region 7 Director

Professional Background

Tim has been with the City of Bozeman for over 12 years. He holds the role as a Water Utility Operator II and Cross-Connection Control Specialist and is also a backflow tester.

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Passionate about serving the community, we have established and maintained strong water conservation initiatives and community relations. Ensuring the integrity of water quality and distribution systems has not only been my occupation but also a commitment to the health and environmental stewardship of Bozeman.

Abstract

Tim will discuss the critical role of collaboration and integrity within the backflow prevention industry. Attendees will gain insights into how cooperation among manufacturers, testers, water authorities, and regulators enhances public health protection and system reliability. The session will highlight best practices for ethical conduct, data transparency, and mutual accountability, while addressing common challenges such as conflicting interests, certification standards, and regulatory compliance. Through real-world examples and open discussion, participants will leave with actionable strategies to strengthen partnerships and uphold the integrity essential to safeguarding our water supply.

Molly Keller, Oregon Health Authority Drinking Water Division

Professional Background

Molly Keller works for the State Drinking Water Program. Molly has a BA in Environmental Planning and Policy from Western Washington University. Molly has worked for the Public Health Division, where she spent 9 years working as a State inspector for the Radiation Protection Services. She has been to every hospital in the State of Oregon. Molly also worked part-time and very briefly as an underage Tobacco inspector for the FDA.

Abstract

Department updates, program news and statistics, rule changes, annual summary report information, and cross-connection advisory board news.

Khalil Howell, Tualatin Valley Water District

Professional Background

Kahlil (Kal) Howell, has been serving as the Senior Water Quality Inspector within the Water Resources Division at Tualatin Valley Water District since 2020. Kal and his team are responsible for managing the District's cross connection control program and all things 'backflow'. Prior to TVWD, Kal spent 10 years as a backflow assembly tester and regional trainer, providing training for operator certifications in cross connection control, backflow assembly testing, and other aspects of water system operations. As much as Kal enjoys geeking out on 'backflow' stuff, he is most thankful to come home each day to his wife, Hilary, and 3-year-old son, Kingston

Abstract

A residential home served by Tualatin Valley Water District (TVWD) experienced intrusion of petroleum-based chemicals into their home's plumbing as a result of the customer's PEX piping service-line being exposed to contaminated soil. This presentation will walk through the investigation, backflow protection safety measures, customer engagement, and the final resolution. It will highlight the importance of customer communication and shed light on a known but potentially overlooked vulnerability with PEX piping.

Jimi Hendrix, ASTRA Backflow

Professional Background

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Jimi has spent the past 20 years with Astra Backflow, immersed in all aspects of backflow prevention—sales, training, troubleshooting, and gauge calibrations. His hands-on experience and deep industry knowledge have made him a trusted resource for customers across Ventura and nationwide.

Passionate about education, Jimi has led backflow training events in collaboration with various manufacturers and under multiple training standards. His commitment to outreach spans from homeowners to state-level agencies, helping to bridge knowledge gaps at every level.

And no—despite the name—he doesn't play the guitar.

Angel Tarango, ASTRA Backflow

Professional Background

Angel joined Astra Backflow a year ago, bringing with him over 13 years of hands-on experience as a certified backflow tester—including four years as a department manager—and five years as the owner of his own backflow company.

Angel holds multiple certifications in the field, including those from AWWA and ABPA, is a certified Cross-Connection Specialist, and also serves as a proctor. His dedication to creating safer public water systems has fueled his passion for improving training methods and expanding education for homeowners, end users, testers, and surveyors alike.

And true to his name—some say he just might be one.

Abstract

Astra Backflow, represented by industry professionals Angel and Jimi, presents an engaging 45–60-minute session focused on leveraging modern technology to improve education and training across the backflow prevention landscape. This presentation is designed for public sector professionals, testers, and industry stakeholders seeking practical, real-world solutions.

Through interactive, hands-on simulations using Reduced Pressure (RP), Double Check (DC), Pressure Vacuum Breaker (PVB), and Spill-Resistant Vacuum Breaker (SVB) assemblies, attendees will gain a deeper understanding of proper operation, troubleshooting, and compliance. The session highlights innovative training methods that bridge the gap between technical accuracy and accessible education, ultimately supporting safer public water systems through better-informed users and practitioners.



The Oregon Chapter of ABPA

24th Annual Seminar

This certificate is awarded to

«First_Name» «Last_Name»

In recognition of having attended .6 hours of approved training on October 1, 2025.

Available Credits:

OESAC: #XXXX for 0.6 CEU DWP/CCS
LCB – 7 CEH

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OR-ABPA Seminar Schedule

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TOTAL CEU CREDITS				