

ABPA 25th Annual Seminar OESAC Application

TIME	ORGANIZATION	SPEAKER	AGENDA
8:00-9:00	American Backflow	Doug Taylor	Top 10 Backflow Repair & Troubleshooting Questions
9:00-9:30	Oregon Health Authority, Drinking Water Services	Molly Keller	Drinking Water Services & Backflow Program updates
9:30-9:45	<u>BREAK</u>		
9:45-10:30	TVWD	Kahlil Howell	Importance of an Active Cross-Connection Control Program
10:30-11:30	State of Oregon Building Codes	Max Butler	OPSC code changes and the impact on the backflow industry
11:30-12:30	<u>LUNCH</u>		
12:30-1:30	Washington State Dept of Health, Drinking Water	William Bernier	Cross Connection Compliance-Common mistakes and backflow incidents
1:30-2:15	Bruton Backflow	Matt Bruton	Propylene glycol and fire systems
2:15-2:30	<u>BREAK</u>		
2:30-3:30	Carollo Engineers	Eric Fullan	OSHA Focus Four

Doug Taylor, American Backflow Products Co.

Professional Background

Doug Taylor is the National Sales Manager for American Backflow Products Company and has been working in the backflow prevention industry since 2003. Doug is a certified backflow tester, having earned his certification through the University of Florida TREEO Center. His combination of hands-on technical experience, industry knowledge, and sales leadership gives him a unique perspective on backflow prevention products, testing, and best practices.

As a speaker, Doug focuses on backflow prevention and practical solutions that help water professionals, testers, contractors, and industry personnel better understand the importance of backflow prevention and effective testing practices.

Abstract

Backflow prevention assemblies are critical to protecting potable water systems, yet even experienced testers and technicians regularly encounter challenging and often misunderstood repair scenarios. This presentation explores the “Top 10” most common backflow repair and troubleshooting questions drawn directly from real-world field experience. Attendees will gain practical insight into diagnosing issues, avoiding common mistakes, and applying proven repair techniques across a range of assemblies and manufacturers.

The session emphasizes a hands-on, problem-solving approach—covering topics such as interpreting test results, addressing intermittent relief valve discharge, proper handling of check valves and springs, resolving difficult component removal, and understanding the impact of system conditions like water quality, pressure fluctuations, and environmental factors. Special focus is given to improving technician confidence, reinforcing that failure and repair are normal parts of system maintenance, and enhancing communication with customers.

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Through clear explanations, field-tested methods, and actionable takeaways, this presentation equips attendees with the knowledge to troubleshoot more effectively, perform reliable repairs, and ultimately extend the life and performance of backflow assemblies.

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

Kal has served as the Senior Water Quality Inspector with Tualatin Valley Water District since 2020, with a focus on commercial/industrial cross-connection control inspections. Kal and his team are responsible for managing the District's cross connection control program and all things 'backflow'. Prior to joining TVWD, Kal spent 10 years as a backflow assembly tester and regional trainer, certifying operators in cross-connection control, backflow assembly testing, and other water system operations across the West Coast, Alaska, and Hawaii. As much as Kal enjoys geeking out on backflow protection, he is most thankful each day to come home to his wife and their 3-year-old son.

Abstract

Intel's Aloha Campus in unincorporated Washington County, OR began operations in 1976, and Tualatin Valley Water District (TVWD) has been the campus' water provider for nearly 50 years. After a cross-connection inspection on October 19, 2023, backflow deficiencies were identified at multiple water connections at the campus. TVWD and Intel embarked on a two-year journey to collaboratively upgrade the backflow assemblies, water meters, and services to three of the meters serving their fab facilities – all without downtime to critical production. This presentation will highlight the importance of an active cross-connection control program and engagement between engineers, operations, and customers.

Max Butler, State of Oregon Building Codes Division

Professional Background

Max Butler has over 15 years of experience in the plumbing industry. He began his career as a plumber and backflow tester in the mid-Willamette Valley, working across residential, commercial, and industrial service

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and installation. During that time, he also served the trade as an apprenticeship instructor and board member for Area II Plumbers JATC and Chemeketa Community College.

In 2019, Max Joined the Building Codes Division as the Plumbing Code Specialist and Trainer in the Inspector Training Program. Since then, he has been actively involved in workforce development and industry outreach, including his role on the IAPMO Young Professionals Committee, where he represents Oregon.

Abstract

Upcoming code changes to the OPSC that may impact the backflow prevention side of the plumbing industry.

William Bernier, Washington State Department of Health, Office of Drinking Water

Professional Background

Manage and oversees the Department of Health's Water System Regulatory Enforcement Program, Waterworks Operator Certification Programs, Cross Connection Control Program, Water Treatment Program, and Waterworks Operator Training Program.

Bill has a B.A. in History from The Ohio State University and attended the Naval Nuclear Power School where he studied Chemistry and Radiological Controls.

Professional Certifications include: CCS, WDMII, Certified Water System Designer, (Formerly a BAT)

Abstract

Provide an overview of the importance of CCC with examples of interesting situations, common mistakes, and backflow incidents.

Matt Bruton, Bruton Backflow

Professional Background

Matt has been testing backflow preventers off and on for almost 30 years. He worked for two different companies before starting his own backflow testing and irrigation company in 2015. In the last 10 years he has personally tested over 30,000 assemblies. We work in over 65 water districts from Mt Hood village to Banks and Scappoose to Salem.

Abstract

Can a duplex gauge be a vector for cross contamination? What happens when a tester goes directly from testing or repairing an assembly on a glycol system to an assembly on a potable system such as a soda machine or dental equipment using the same gauge? Are there precautions we can or should be taking into account when testing assemblies on vastly different hazard levels and downstream service?

Eric Fullan, Carollo Engineers

Professional Background

Eric has over 30 years of professional safety experience in local government and water utilities. He has presented at numerous AWWA short schools and conferences, APWA, and the Oregon Governor's Occupational Safety and Health Conferences. He has served as chair of the NW Oregon Sub-Section and the PNWS Safety Committees. He is published in the AWWA Opflow magazine and has been an active participant in various

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national AWWA and Research Foundation safety related projects including Prevention-Through-Design. He is also a past-president of the Columbia-Willamette Chapter of the American Society of Safety Professionals.

Abstract

The construction industry is inherently hazardous, with workers exposed to various risks daily. Recognizing this, OSHA has identified four primary hazards that account for most injuries and fatalities in construction.

These hazards, known as the "Focus Four" are:

- 1. Falls*
- 2. Struck-By*
- 3. Caught-In/Between*
- 4. Electrocution*

This session will focus on these four hazards that can be found throughout the water utilities and understanding these hazards and implement effective safety measures can significantly reduce the risk of accidents and injuries.