

# Backflow Prevention: Tips for Staying in Compliance

OTCO-B5295398-OM (0.75)

Wednesday, November 15, 2023

OTCO Water Distribution Workshop



*Curtis L. Truss Jr.,  
OTCO Executive Director*

# Curtis L. Truss Jr.

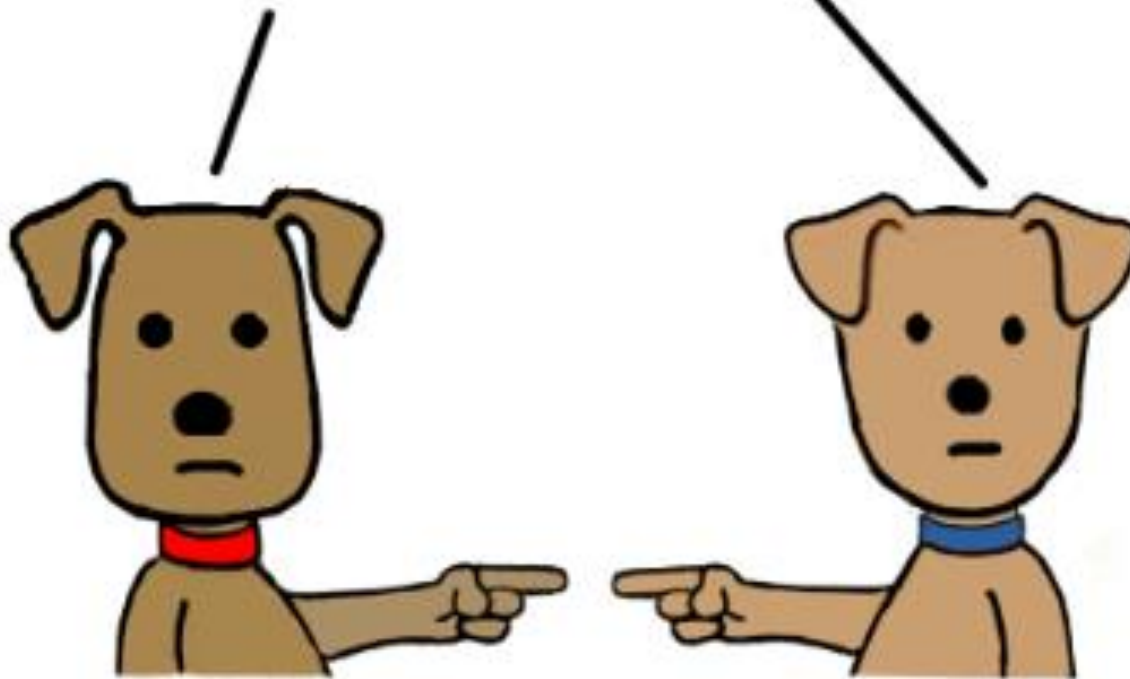
- Executive Director (1998-Current)
- Assistant Director (1990-1998)
- Trustee (1988-1990)
- Instructor (1984-Current)
- City of Springfield Ohio Water & Wastewater (1973-1988)
- Central State University Water/Wastewater (1988-1990)
- OEPA Class III Water Certification (1984)
- OEPA Class III Wastewater Certification (1987)
- ORWA Circuit Rider (1994)
- AWWA Fuller Awardee (1998)
- AWWA Honorary Member (2008)
- AWWA Melick Awardee (2009)
- WEF 5-S Awardee (2005)
- Adjunct Instructor EGCC (2012)



**TOP 3**

The image features the text "TOP 3" in a bold, 3D sans-serif font. The letters "T", "O", and "P" are rendered in a vibrant red color, while the number "3" is rendered in a bright blue color. The characters have a thick, blocky appearance with visible shadows and highlights, giving them a three-dimensional effect. They are set against a plain white background within a white rectangular frame. The overall composition is clean and modern.

**Don't look at me, it's his responsibility.**







Contribution from:

Jess Jones, OTCO

Dick Lykins, OTCO

Gary Espenschied, OTCO

Dr. Ashley Bird, OEPA

# Backflow Update

- What Decade Was Backflow Regulations were first instituted ?
- 1960
- 1970
- 1980
- 1990



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# Backflow Update

- Backflow Regulations were first instituted July 1, 1972.
- Can be a requirement for system upgrades



# Backflow Update

- 1969 – Ohio Approves the Reduced Pressure Assembly
- 1972 – Became Law & was Adopted by ODH to Regulate Backflow Prevention in Ohio
- 1972 – Personnel From ODH & ODNR Become Core of Ohio EPA (10/23/72)
  - Jim Haywood Heads the Backflow Prevention Program
  - Ohio EPA Adopts Legislation Which Later Becomes OAC 3745-95

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- 1972 – Ohio EPA Requires the I-71 Corridor Cities to Implement a Backflow Prevention Program



# Backflow Update

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  - Cincinnati – Columbus - Cleveland

# Backflow Update

- 1976 – Ohio EPA Creates “Manual of Backflow Prevention & Cross-Connection Control”
- 1979 – ? Initiates the “Certified Backflow Tester” License Program
  - ODH
  - OEPA
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  - Who Could Attend?



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- 1983 – Dr Ashley Bird is Given the Responsibility for the Ohio EPA Backflow Prevention Program
  - **Ohio EPA’s Maria Lucente Currently Responsible**



# Backflow Update

- 1994 – First Backflow Prevention Training Program was Created for Water Suppliers by OTCO at the Request of Dr Ashley Bird
  - Support & Input By the Following
    - Dr Ashley Bird
    - Richard Lykins
    - Ralph Mohr
    - Steve Skinner
    - Jess Jones
    - John McCreight
    - Larry Short
    - Curtis Truss
- 1995 – Over 150 Water Supply Employees Attended the Training That First Year & Resulted in Increased Backflow Prevention Programs

# Backflow Update

- 1996 – Plumbing Trades Are Now More Interested in Becoming Certified
- 1995 – ODH Backflow Prevention Section Moves to Ohio DOC
- 1998 – Ohio Adopts the International Plumbing Code
- 2000 – ODOC Requests OEPA & OTCO Participation on Their Ad Hoc Backflow Prevention Advisory Committee
  - Represents a Handshake Between ODOC, OEPA & OTCO
  - Cooperative Effort Initiated & Led by Ralph Reeb of Ohio DOC



# Backflow Update

- 2001 – Water Supply Employees Can Take the ODOC “Certified Backflow Tester” Examination After Attending the OTCO Training
- 2003 – ODOC Proposes New Legislation
  - Senate Bill 179
  - Would Restrict “Certified Backflow Tester” License to Plumbing Trades
  - Would Require All Backflow Preventers to be Tested by a “Licensed Person”
  - Would Eliminate Water Supplier Authority Over Containment Testing

# Backflow Update

- 2003 – OEPA, ORWA, OAWWA & OTCO Opposed the Proposal
- 2003 – United Effort on Water Supply Side
  - Dr Ashley Bird, OEPA
  - Kevin Strang, ORWA
  - Curtis Truss, OTCO & Vice President of AWWA
  - Jess Jones, OTCO



# Backflow Update

- 2003 – Multiple Meetings Held to Protect the Authority, Responsibility & Liability of the Water Supply Community
- 2003 - After Several Failed Attempts, a Mutually Acceptable Resolution is Reached
- 2004 – Legislation Become Law

# Backflow Update

- Water Supplier Retains Authority Over Containment
- ODOC Retains Authority Over Isolation
- ODOC Satisfies Their Need to Charge Fees for “Certified Backflow Tester” License
- Codifies What They Have Been Doing Without Legal Authority for 24 Years
- Ad Hoc Advisory Committee Continues



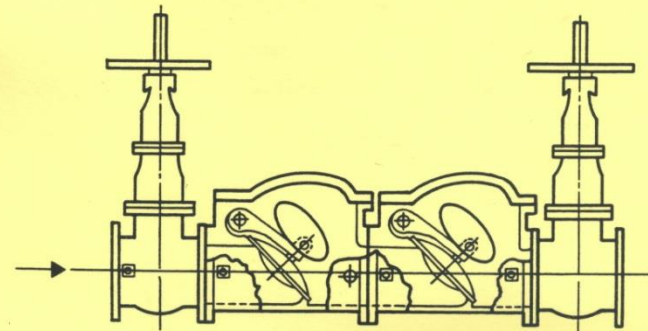
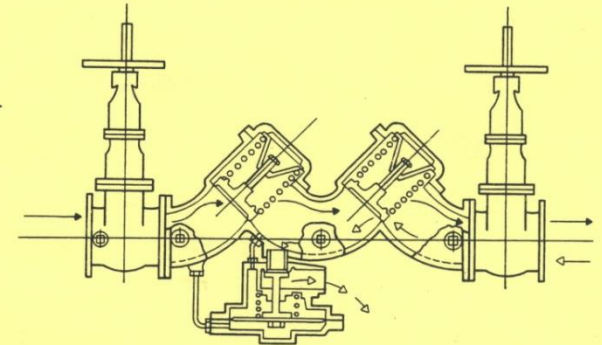
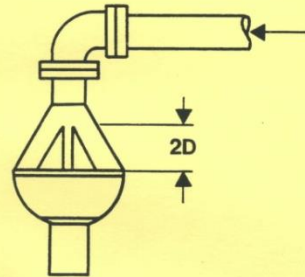
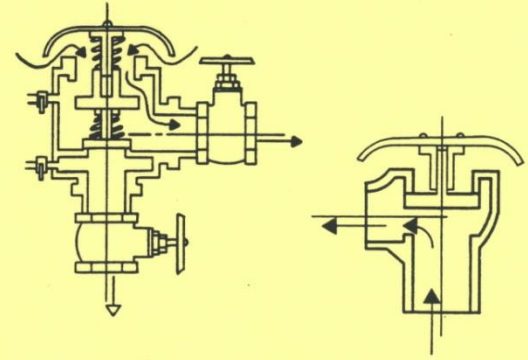
**OhioEPA**

State of Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

division of  
public water supply

**backflow  
prevention  
and  
cross-connection  
control**

third edition-1987  
revised-1990



# OEPA's Backflow Manual Prior to October 25, 2015




Division of Drinking and Ground Waters

# **Backflow Prevention and Cross-Connection Control**

Fourth Edition – 2015





This is a manual of good engineering practices for the protection of potable water systems from contamination by backflow. It is specifically written for use in Ohio, incorporating the laws and administrative rules of the State of Ohio. This manual is also intended for use as a self-training manual for water supply personnel and others involved in cross-connection control.

Although this manual discusses all aspects of backflow prevention and cross-connection control, its main emphasis is promoting Ohio EPA's mission and assisting public water systems in protecting public water supplies.

To meet this requirement, the supplier of water shall conduct or cause to be conducted an on-site investigation of all premises at least every five years to identify changes in water use practices at the consumer's property so that new or increased hazards to the water supply are identified and mitigated.

In lieu of conducting an on-site investigation of all premises every five years, the supplier of water can document, in writing, an alternate, on-going, methodology to identify changes in water use practices that may represent a new or increased hazard to the public water supply.



## OAC 3745-95 Backflow Prevention

- **Water Use Survey**
  - Performed when the assembly is tested every 12 month
  - Must be completed by a DOC Certified Plumber
  - Must be completed by OTCO Certified Tester
  - Questionnaire completed by the customer, DOC Certified Plumber or OTCO Certified Tester can be used in place of a Water Use Survey

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Document Type:

## Number of Notice of Violations regarding Backflow Prevention 11/5/2021 - 6/20/2022

- 1) 79
- 2) 119
- 3) 179
- 4) 379





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4) 379



Document Type:

## Number of Notice of Violations regarding Backflow Prevention 6/21/2021 - 11/14/2023

- 1) 79
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- 4) 183





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