



## CROSS CONNECTION CONTROL PROGRAM

All public water systems are required to establish and actively enforce a “cross connection” control program. In SCMWC documents, Article III, paragraph 1 of our bylaws; Article X, paragraph B of our Articles of Incorporation, and Section 2 of our Uniform Rules and Regulations provide the authority to initiate this program. Please read and understand the following information.

Contact information for appointments or questions is noted below.

**What is a Cross Connection?** A cross connection is any connection between the drinking water system and any other liquid, gas, or flowing solid.

**What is Backflow?** Backflow is the undesirable reversal of flow in a piping system so that a substance other than culinary water flows back into the culinary water system. Two types of backflow are 1) back pressure, and 2) back siphonage.

**What is a Backflow Incident?** It is considered an incident when either a back pressure or a back siphonage event occurs with a cross connection present.

**Examples of Backflow potential:** a. Garden hose being used to fill a stock watering tank, laundry tub, or other container which is not bacteria free b. Garden hose being used to fill a chemical spray tank or a pet watering container c. A make-up line to a boiler with chemicals in the water.

**What causes Backflow?** Any change in pressure within the water lines which results in flow reversal.

**What are the SCMWC’s plans to be in compliance?** a. Provide information at annual meetings and with mailings; b. Conduct inspections; c. Keep records of education, system inspection and maintenance; d. Utilize Company authority to take and enforce necessary compliance actions.

**What can individual cabin owners do to be in compliance?** a. Read and understand the notices, definitions, and rules. b. Allow inspections and follow any resulting instructions. c. Be a “leak seeker” and fix or report any leaks or violations.

**What if we are non-compliant?** a. The SCMWC system may be “un-approved.” b. Fines may be levied by the State and/or EPA. c. An individual cabin owner may be disconnected from the system, fined, and/or assessed for re-connection.

**Are devices available to help?** Yes. There are simple devices for a garden hose, or more complex assemblies for more complicated connections.

**Most incidents are caused by common connections such as sprinkler systems and garden hoses.** The SCMWC does not allow lawn watering. Compliance in most cases may be to simply disconnect the garden hose from the faucet after use. Appliances within the cabin such as water softeners, boiler furnaces, laundry equipment, etc. should be suspect even though installed by professionals. Properly winterizing your cabin is important. Each cabin should be considered individually as its location from the main line, the lay of the land, grade, and type of connection are all factors.

**The SCMWC will try to inspect all cabins before cold weather in the fall.** Owners can assist by implementing winterizing techniques as well. Additional monitoring required for cabin rental businesses will be invoiced to the individual rental owners.

### CROSS CONNECTION CONTACTS

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## **General Information from the Utah Division of Drinking Water:**

Every public drinking water system should establish and actively enforce a cross connection control program. An effective cross connection control program consists of a number of components which when properly administrated are designed to prevent contamination from entering your water distribution system.

The main components of an effective cross connection control system are: local authority, public awareness, trained staff, record keeping, and on-going enforcement.

### Local Authority

This would consist of an ordinance by the council, board, or governing legal body that would authorize the drinking water system to carry out a cross connection control program. Specific items to be covered in this ordinance would include: authority to require inspections or surveys; authority to require testing of assemblies and/or devices, authority to discontinue service to connections where compliance is refused, and individuals responsible for the program and enforcement.

### Public Awareness

A good public awareness program will provide information to the public concerning: what cross connections are, how they can be prevented, what types of protection are available, and the concerns associated with thermal expansion where protection is required.

### Trained Staff

It is recommended but not necessary that at least one member of the water system's staff be trained as a backflow technician or specialist. It is imperative though that at least one member of the system's staff have some training in cross connection control. This training is being made available to managers and operators throughout the State through organizations such as the Rural Water Association of Utah (*SCMWC is a member of RWAU*) and the Utah Section of the American Backflow Prevention Association. Staff from the Utah Division of Drinking Water are also available to provide training in cross connection control.

### Record Keeping

Once a water system has an ordinance and has begun to establish a program, an efficient and detailed record-keeping program must be established and maintained. Records should be made and kept concerning the following: all surveys or inspections, locations of assemblies and high-hazard air gaps with testing and inspection records, and any backflow incidents and corrective actions taken as well as any compliance actions.

### On-going Enforcement Program

The program will only be as effective as the individuals who are authorized to carry it out. Ideally this would extend to the building inspection and/or plumbing inspection departments where possible but as a minimum someone in the water department (company, in the case of SCMWC) should be authorized to administrate the program and take compliance actions. Testing and inspections may be done by system personnel or the responsibility for it may be deleted to the building or site ownership as is usually the case. Either way, someone must be authorized to administrate the program and must have the time and necessary support to do so.