

# Hildale-Colorado City Utility Department

Back Flow Ordinance Enforcement Policy

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Utility Business Manager

## General

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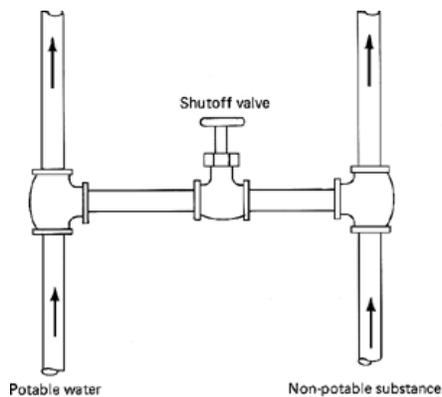
In order to be compliant with the Utah Code R309-105-12 and Arizona ARTICLE 1411. Backflow Control and Cross-Connection Program, the cities have enacted local ordinances Colorado City Ord. 2001-1§ 51.82 and Hildale Ord. No. 01-9-1, § 3, 9-11-2001. The board will resolve the adoption of the following policies.

### What is Backflow

Backflow, or back-siphonage undesirable reversal of flow of a liquid, gas, or suspended solid into the potable water supply.

### What is a Cross Connection

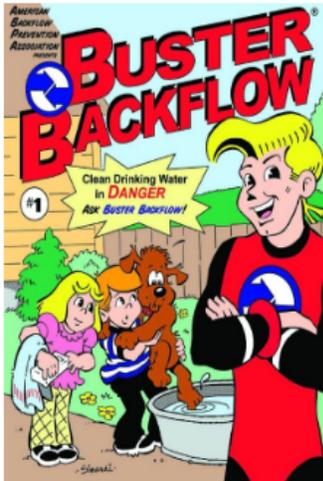
Points at which a potable water system connects with a non-potable water system are called cross connections.



## Public Awareness Campaign

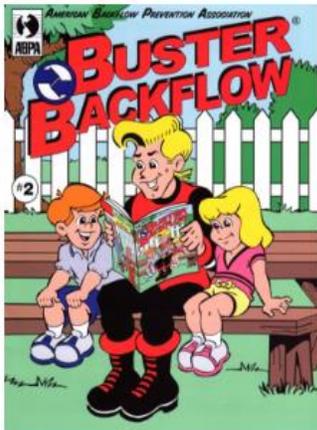
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The Department, using materials from the American Backflow Prevention Association (ABPA), we will provide publications which explain the dangers that backflow and backsiphonage to communities and how to prevent it. The following publications are being purchased for distribution from the ABPA.



## Comic Book #1

Buster Backflow® Comic Book #1 in both English and Spanish is a basic introduction about how backflow occurs and the dangers of back-siphonage by means of a simple garden hose. Three examples are used to illustrate how easily a crossconnection can be made as Traci and David, the main characters of the comic book series, fills a tub of soapy water to wash their dog. Buster Backflow® shows up to give the kids a lesson on backflow prevention and examples of how we can protect against backflow. David and Tracie learn their lesson as they quickly spot two more examples of potential hazards in their neighborhood. As two disbelievers, Mr. Benson and his neighbor tells the kids that backflow is a lot of bunk, Buster Backflow® appears once again to reinforce to Tracie and David their lesson on keeping our drinking water safe.



## Comic Book #2

Buster Backflow® Comic Book #2 tells how our drinking water can easily become contaminated through an irrigation system if it is not properly protected. Traci and David are at Grandma's house where she is going to have an irrigation system installed when Buster Backflow® shows up to explain that a lawn irrigation system can be a health hazard if it is not installed properly. When the contractor shows up, Grandma is sure to tell Federico she wants her new lawn irrigation system installed correctly and safely. Buster Backflow® also explains that anyone who needs help installing an irrigation system can call the water provider for information and advice as some special permits may be required.

The Department will distribute these materials through social media and delivering them directly to homeowners.

The public awareness campaign is expected to cost under \$1,000.

## Enforcement Policy

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The Department shall establish a commercial cross connection control, and inspection register as stipulated in Utah and Arizona Cross Connection Control Programs.

The Department will provide on-site inspection and recommendations for customers who are concerned they have a backflow issue.

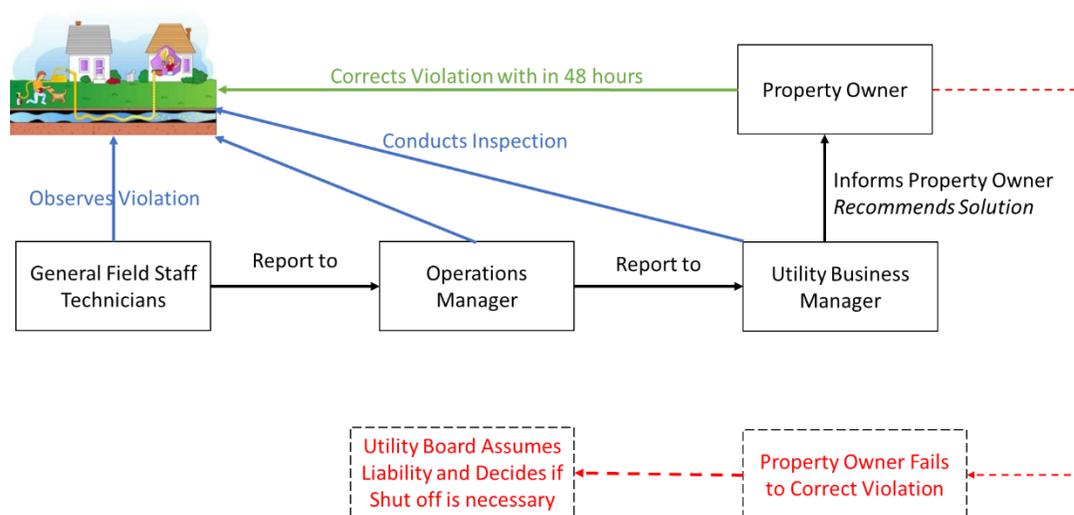
Department employees who discover backflow or cross connection violations will immediately report to the Operations Manager who will also inform the Utility Business Manager. Management

officials will conduct an inspection of the site and determine the risk to the culinary water system. Upon determination that a cross connection violation exists, the Department officials will determine if an immediate risk to public health exists.

Department officials will then immediately attempt to contact the property owner. The owner will be given notice that they have a violation and some recommended actions to correct the violation. If the correction happens immediately, no further action will necessary. If the owner fails to correct the infraction within 48 hours or cannot be contacted Department officials will shut off water service ONLY if an immediate threat to the integrity to the culinary water system exists.

If the threat to the culinary system is not immediate, the Department will send a memorandum of violation to the Utility Board and the City Council where the violation occurred. Once a memorandum is sent, all liability is transferred from Utility Staff and Officials to the respective city council, who will have the opportunity to hold an emergency hearing with an announcement in 24 hours to act on the violation.

The Department shall still retain the ability to take immediate action to protect the water system if it is determined the threat presents a risk to life, limb, or health of the general public, or in cases where significant financial or legal risk are present.



## Liability Policy

Once the board and the respective city council are informed of non-compliance from the property owner, the respective city council and by extension the Utility Board will bear all liability for action to protect the integrity of the culinary water system. Inspections by State or Federal agencies on backflow incidents will be directed at the Utility Board and the city councils as per this policy.

## **Immediate Danger Action Policy**

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If Utility Department officials determine an immediate threat to the culinary system that pose immediate risks to the health, or safety of Hildale/Colorado City residents, action may be taken in lieu of official action from the board.