

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

May 10, 2010  
City of Boulder City  
Public Works Department  
702-293-9200



**City to Create Database of Existing Backflow Prevention Devices**

State law requires backflow prevention devices on all water services at commercial buildings, public buildings, parks and multi-family dwellings. Single family residential units are not included. This is an important component of all public water systems to ensure the safety and quality of water in the City's water mains. The concern is a sudden drop in pressure on the City's main, which could be caused from a water main break, a high volume of water use at a fire hydrant, or other interruptions in service. When this occurs, the pressure of the water pipes in the building could cause water to flow backwards through the meter into the City's system. This situation is particularly dangerous in commercial establishments where a hose connected to a sink could be sitting in a pool of dirty dish water.

Backflow devices prevent this situation from ever occurring. Imagine a circular door inside the water pipe. The hinges on the door allow it to swing open, toward the building, but when pressured from the inside, the door closes and the hinges do not allow the door to swing backwards, thereby preventing water from flowing from the building back to the City's system.

The City's utility system is required by the Nevada Department of Environmental Protection permit to mandate installation and regular testing of backflow devices. To achieve compliance requires a multi-step process as follows:

- A. Inspect all existing, non-single family residential, water meters and record the presence or absence of a backflow prevention device. To allow for mapping, the coordinates of the devices will be captured.
- B. Test all existing devices and make repairs as necessary. Tests are required on an annual basis.
- C. Develop a list of required backflow devices and prioritize locations for installation.
- D. Maintain the testing and database for perpetuity.

Beginning Monday, May 17, 2010, the consulting firm of NOVA Engineering will be visiting each location in Boulder City to build the database of existing backflow prevention devices.

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