



# Backflow Prevention Association

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## Wednesday August 13<sup>th</sup> 9AM General Business Meeting

Swedish Hospital 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Center, Oak Room.

501 E. Hampden Ave. Denver, CO

Due to extremely limited space it is very important that you RSVP if you plan to attend this Conference Planning & General Business meeting. Please RSVP to 720.733.6059 or email: info@backflow.org by 7AM Monday Aug.10<sup>th</sup>. Directions & Map on website or available by fax. Come prepared with ideas for topics/speakers to finalize the agenda.

The 2003 Conference Committee is still searching for your suggestions for topics for the December 4<sup>th</sup> Annual CBPA Conference. We will have breakout sessions for technical, program development, proctor training, certification criteria, as well as purveyor and technician topics for both new and experienced personnel.

Please let us know what you want to hear about!

Thank YOU to Marshall Rodeno Associated for  
Hosting

the CBPA July Meeting and summer BBQ

Special thanks to Shannon for organizing the great Bennett's BBQ and to Jim Smith for his informative presentation. A great time was had by all. Thanks to Jim Smith for his presentation.

## Upcoming Meetings & Events

- ✓ **August 13<sup>th</sup> 9am** Swedish Hospital 501 E. Hampden  
Breakfast will be served for those who RSVP by Aug.10th
- ✓ **September 10<sup>th</sup> 11:00-1pm** The Dillon Company 3930 Cook ST
- ✓ **September 29- October 1** Western Regional Backflow Conference
- ✓ **October 8<sup>th</sup> 9AM** Northglenn
- ✓ **November 12<sup>th</sup> 9AM** City of Aurora Municipal Building
- ✓ **December 4<sup>th</sup> CBPA Annual Conference Holiday Inn DIA  
I-70 & Chambers**

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW**

**CBPA meeting is normally held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month**

## My ABPA Certification Experience – Part I

By Scott Campbell, CBPA VP

Due to the recent Colorado backflow certification changes, I've opted to pursue both ABPA & ASSE certifications. In this article I'll tell you about my ABPA testing experience, which I recently completed. This fall I plan to pursue the ASSE certification, and I will then follow up with articles about that testing experience. If a member has recently been ASSE certified and would like to tell the membership about their experience, please contact me.

My current Colorado certification is valid through December 2004, but since I'm a CBPA officer and my sole means of "bread & butter" is backflow testing and repair, I've decided to pursue all the available training & certifications in the Colorado area (ABC training isn't currently locally available). I would also like to be a proctor for the certifications I carry. On June 6<sup>th</sup> I passed the ABPA certification, and on June 7<sup>th</sup> I became qualified to be an ABPA proctor. In Part I of this series I will discuss the ABPA tester certification and Part II will be about the proctor training & Proctor Mock Performance Exam.

ABPA requires formal training if you're new to backflow prevention, but since I carry a currently recognized certification and I have experience in the industry, I had the option of just taking the written & performance exams without any additional training. I found that *Backflow Consulting Testing & Repair, Inc.*, instructed by Fred Spengler, offered weeklong and two-day ABPA workshops. I'm not aware of anyone else locally that offers ABPA training.

On May 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> I attended Fred's two-day workshop. Fred discussed ABPA's "need to know" criteria and then discussed the procedures. After each procedure discussion we went into his workshop and actually performed the procedure. ABPA not only requires you to perform the procedures, but also expects you to troubleshoot failures during the performance exam. The ABPA performance exam has backflow assembly stations that allow the proctor to simulate any type of failure (i.e. fouled #1 check, leaking #2 SOV, etc.), and Fred's workshop had similar stations. I found the ABPA procedures to be quite different than the Colorado procedures.

Following Fred's workshop I reviewed the procedures daily, practiced the procedures in the field, and the night before the exam, I reviewed the *Colorado Cross-Connection Control Manual, 5<sup>th</sup> Edition* (to "brush-up" on the backflow basics).

With the preparation outlined above, I didn't have any problem with the written exam. The majority of the questions were procedure and troubleshooting related. When I was finished with the exam it was graded on the spot, and then I assumed a position in the line for the performance exam.

Fred Spengler and Steve Krebs finished the performance exam before me and they came out of the performance exam area covered in sweat. Or, maybe it was water? Just kidding!

As expected, the proctor threw an assembly troubleshooting "curve" into each procedure. During the DC procedure exam the proctor informed me "I had made an error" but he was not allowed to offer any further assistance. I realized my unused hoses were not at the proper height, which I corrected, and then I was able to pass the performance exam. Although the proctors have procedures to follow, they answered all of my questions and helped in any way possible.

My recommendations:

If you're "new": You are required to get proper training with at least a 40-hour workshop.

If you're not "new" but you test assemblies on an occasional basis, it would still be a good idea to take the 40-hour workshop.

If you're not "new" and you test assemblies regularly, you can probably get by with reviewing the ABPA procedures and reviewing the "basics". If you want to be sure, do as I did and take a refresher course.

In all cases: practice, practice, practice!

Don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions!