



Backflow Prevention Association

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**Join Us at The Dillon Company
September 10th from 11am-1pm for a lunch meeting
and presentation of the new Febco devices.
3930 Cook St Denver, CO**

A donation of \$5 per person is requested at the door for lunch. Guests are welcome! Please RSVP to Craig Florence by Monday September 8th at 303 399-5566 or email at craig@thedillon.com

We will have a presentation on the new product line from Febco following the business meeting.

SEE YOU THERE

THANK YOU

Swedish Hospital and Michael Cummins for hosting the August meeting.

This is a reminder that the CBPA Officers are here to serve CBPA and its membership. Please do not hesitate to contact one of us if you have questions or concerns. We welcome your suggestions and feedback.

The 2003 Conference Committee is still searching for your suggestions for topics for the December 4th 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!

With the input at the August meeting the agenda is starting to look great! There is still time to speak up on topics and speakers you would like to hear from.

Upcoming Meetings & Events

- ✓ **Sept 10th** 11:00-1pm Lunch Meeting & Presentation The Dillon CO 3930 Cook St Denver, CO 80
- ✓ **Sept 29-Oct 1** Western Regional Backflow Conference
- ✓ **October 8th** 9am Northglenn
- ✓ **October** TBA -pm - Northern Subchapter Meeting - Stay Tuned
- ✓ **November 12th** 9am Aurora Municipal Center
- ✓ **December 4th** CBPA 2003 Conference Holiday Inn DIA I-70 & Chambers
- ✓ **January 8th** 9am Castle Rock

MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW

General Meeting is usually the 2nd Wednesday of the Month



**Directions to
The Dillon Company
3930 Cook St. Denver, CO 80205**

Via I-25 From the North

Merge onto I-70 via exit 214 B-A toward Limon
Exit 276A toward US-6 E/Vasquez Blvd/US 85N
Take Steele St ramp

Turn SLIGHT RIGHT onto Steele St

Via I-25 From the South

Merge onto S Colorado Blvd/CO-2 N via Exit 204
Both

Turn LEFT onto E 40th Ave/CO-33

Turn RIGHT onto Cook St

My ABPA Certification Experience – Part II

By Scott Campbell, CBPA VP

This is the second and final part of a series outlining my experiences with ABPA tester & proctor certifications. In last month's newsletter I described my tester certification experience, and in this issue I'll tell you about the proctor training/certification.

As discussed in last month's article, an ABPA Backflow Prevention Assembly Tester applicant must first complete a written exam, followed by a performance examination to show they actually can perform the procedures as well as troubleshoot problems. The Examination Monitor administers the written examination to the applicants and the Proctors are coupled with applicants to administer the performance exam.

On June 7th, 2003 I attended an ABPA proctor training session, which was instructed by Michael Moss, our Regional Director, Greg Hand, both from Salt Lake City, UT, as well as Ken Ashlock from Tempe, AZ. I became a certified ABPA Backflow Prevention Assembly Tester just the day before, but with my prior backflow prevention experience and with the procedures "fresh in my head", I felt I had a good chance of passing the proctor training requirements. There were about seven other Proctor trainees

Similar to the Tester certification agenda, the Proctor Training session consisted of two parts, the 1st being classroom discussion, and the 2nd being more "hands-on". The classroom included discussions on Proctor qualifications, examination instructions (both written & performance), and a review of the Performance Examination Test Forms.

During the 1st part of the "hands-on" training the instructors performed the procedures correctly, which included the RP, DC, PVB & SVB. During this we watched and filled out the practice Performance Examination Test Forms. The Performance Examination Test Form is what the Proctor uses to "grade" the applicant while running through the test procedures. It's in the form of a checklist and has an area to make notes. Next the instructors performed the procedures but intentionally made errors, and it was our job as "wanna be" Proctors to observe and note the errors. It was also important to determine which errors made an actual difference with the test procedure results and which errors were inconsequential.

The instructors let us practice these mock exams several times until we were comfortable with each type of assembly and before we were actually graded on how we performed as a Proctor. Once all the trainees felt reasonably comfortable, we did one more mock performance exam on each device. The Performance Examination Test Forms we filled out were sent to Ernest J. Havlina, the ABPA Tester Certification Program Administrator. Mr. Havlina compared our test results to the actual results they were looking for, which would be the final determination whether we passed and would become Proctors. I received positive results by mail approximately three weeks later. I heard through the "grapevine" that the other trainees passed as well.

In a "nutshell" I would describe the experience as very challenging. Every applicant will perform the procedures different than the next person. Some may be fast, while others may perform the procedures at a slower pace. Some may talk through the procedures and others may talk only when they need to. Some may make subtle "errors" (i.e. not flushing the #1 test cock) that would not have a detrimental effect on the test results. Don't forget about different test kits: you have two, three, and five valve models as well as analog and digital models. Additionally, test kits have different hose configurations. As a Proctor you have to keep up with all of this make sure you are passing an applicant that performs the procedures to obtain accurate results and not unfairly failing other applicants.

Colorado needs to increase its pool of ABPA Proctors so that only a few proctors are not heavily relied upon. I encourage anyone with backflow experience and who is ABPA certified (or will be) to become an ABPA Proctor. Naturally, the more backflow prevention experience you have, especially ABPA field experience, will make becoming a Proctor easier.

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