

# CROSS CONNECTON CONTROL AND BACKFLOW PREVENTION

Starting and Maintaining a  
Program for your Water System

## RESPONSIBILITIES




DRINKING WATER

Gary Rager  
Utah Division of Drinking Water  
801-536-4498  
grager@utah.gov



# RESPONSIBILITIES

Who is involved in  
Cross Connection Control  
and how they are involved



# **FEDERAL** **ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION** **AGENCY (EPA)**

- Responsibility
  - Insure all citizens have clean, safe drinking water supply
- Authority
  - Safe Drinking Water Act – Implies a need for protection against cross connections.
  - Regulation of state drinking water programs, or oversight of states not in compliance
- Liability
  - Must answer to the citizens about any backflow incident that has or may occur

## STATE LEVEL

# UTAH DEPT. of ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY, DRINKING WATER BOARD, DIVISION OF DRINKING WATER

- Responsibility
  - Insure that every person has an adequate supply of safe, clean drinking water
  - Enforce Safe Drinking Water Act and EPA rules
  - Enforce Utah Rules for Public Drinking Water systems
- Authority
  - Legislated by Utah State Legislature through the Utah Drinking Water board
  - Utah Rules for Public Drinking Water Systems
  - Primacy Agency for drinking water enforcement as recognized by USEPA
- Liability
  - Citizens of Utah
  - Legislators of Utah
  - USEPA



## LOCAL LEVEL

# DRINKING WATER SUPPLIER

- Responsibility
  - Primary responsibility for the quality of the water to the last free flowing tap.
  - Develop sources or provide treatment to insure water meets monitoring requirements.
  - Physical facilities are in compliance with Utah Rules for Public Drinking Water Systems (sanitary surveys)
  - **Must** have cross connection control program
  - Use reasonable vigilance in operation of water system



## LOCAL LEVEL

# DRINKING WATER SYSTEM

- Authority
  - Utah Rules for Public Drinking Water Systems
  - Local ordinances, policies, or bylaws
- Liability
  - Responsibility to customers
  - Drinking Water Board
  - USEPA
  - Liable for damages



# LOCAL LEVEL

## PLUMBING OFFICIALS

- Responsibility
  - Preventing cross connections from being designed or built into any construction within the jurisdiction.
  - 3 feet outside of building.
- Authority
  - Current Plumbing Code as adopted by the State of Utah and its amendments.
  - Local ordinances, policies, or bylaws.
- Liability
  - Liability passed on to City or County making them liable.
  - Department of Occupational and Professional Licensing.



# LOCAL LEVEL WATER CONSUMER

- Responsibility
  - Determined by the rules of the administrative authority as a condition for water service
  - May bear expense of installing, testing and repair of backflow assemblies on their premise
  - Responsible for maintaining plumbing code compliance
  - Responsible for submitting test reports to water purveyor
- Liability
  - Liable for negligence and non compliance on premises
  - Liable for damages
  - May bear expense of cleanup and/or damages to life and property



# BACKFLOW ASSEMBLY TESTER

- Responsibility
  - Competency and accuracy of test reports
  - Insure acceptable procedures are used for tests and repairs
  - Use approved manufacturer parts for repairs
  - Not change the design or materials or operation of backflow assembly or device
  - Maintain a current certification
  - Be equipped and competent in the use of equipment and tools to test and repair a backflow assembly
- Liability
  - Liable for accuracy and competency of testing and repairs
  - Accuracy of test reports
  - Professional integrity
  - Use reasonable diligence – your abilities as trained