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BATalk - is an electronic newsletter sharing important certification program information with Washington's Backflow Assembly Testers (BAT).

IMPORTANT UPDATE

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH REVOKES BACKFLOW ASSEMBLY TESTER CERTIFICATION FOR FIVE YEARS

Formal Action: Case No. BN5590-62014

The following case summary covers revocation of the backflow assembly tester certification of Jason Flannery, previous BAT number BN5590, Pure Flow Testing, LLC, Redmond, WA.

Department of Health will look to take formal action when an investigation reveals clear and convincing evidence that a BAT has met the revocation and suspension criteria in WAC 246-292-100 and potentially endangered water users. The BAT will be evaluated for possible suspension or revocation of their backflow assembly tester certification.

This investigation was opened following a complaint filed with the Waterworks Operator Certification program by the Cross-

Connection Control Specialist (CCS) for one of our larger utilities. The CCS provided documentation with the complaint, alleging that the BAT had submitted false field test reports for an apartment complex with five backflow prevention assemblies. The CCS visited the site just a few days after the date on the reports and found that 4 of the 5 assemblies were completely buried under dirt that had not been disturbed.

The course of the Flannery investigation resulted in an additional complaint from another CCS for a larger utility. This CCS submitted a police report filed by a high end auto car dealership, which alleged fraudulent backflow prevention assembly testing by Mr. Flannery and Pure Flow Testing, LLC. Additionally, the CCS provided copies of invoices they had received from a restaurant chain in Washington, Oregon and California, for assembly testing that could not be confirmed. We verified that Mr. Flannery did not hold BAT certifications in Oregon or California.

A thorough review of the results of the investigation resulted in a revocation of Mr. Flannery's backflow assembly tester certification for 5 years. Mr. Flannery did not appeal the revocation of his certification.

LESS THAN 3 MONTHS LEFT TO PASS PROFESSIONAL GROWTH EXAM



The clock is ticking and time is running out. BATs certified before January 1, 2013 only have until December 31st to pass the professional growth exam. Check your [professional growth status](#) online and [apply](#) for the exam now using the [new application form](#).

*If you wait until December and don't pass your professional growth exam
it may be too late to apply for another exam.*

If you don't pass the professional growth exam by December 31st

your certificate will be inactivated.

Professional growth exams are now available in six locations statewide. Exams in three new locations -- Bellingham, Kennewick and Yakima - are limited and fill quickly. Twenty-nine exam dates are scheduled between October 1st and December 31st so check the [online schedule](#) and apply soon to secure your first choice of date and location.

SAMPLE FIELD TEST REPORT NOW AVAILABLE



The Waterworks Operator Certification Rule, effective January 4, 2014, includes a section on backflow prevention inspection and field test report content ([WAC 246-292-036](#)). To complement the rule Department of Health has developed a [sample test report form and instructions](#).

The new sample field test report form should help Backflow Assembly Testers and water purveyors comply with the minimum test report content in the new rule.

The sample form includes several optional fields that commonly appear on other test report forms used in Washington. The optional content and format of this form can be modified to meet your specific needs, however the required content must be included to comply with the Operator Certification Rule.

ONLINE BAT RENEWAL OPTION NOW AVAILABLE



Backflow Assembly Testers will now have the option to renew online and pay with a credit or debit card. Payments can still be submitted by mail using a check or money order. Renewal notices will be sent to all eligible Backflow Assembly Testers (BAT) in November. Renewal is simple - just follow the instructions on the form to submit your payment.

If you are eligible to renew your BAT certificate you will receive renewal forms both by US Postal Service mail and also to the email address on file with Washington Certification Services.

You are eligible to renew if you meet this criteria:

- Your professional growth deadline is December 31, 2015 and you have passed your examination
- Your professional growth deadline is December 31, 2018
- You become certified as a new BAT between October 1 and December 31, 2015. No payment is required and you will be automatically renewed for 2016.

REMEMBER! If your professional growth deadline is December 31, 2015 and you have not yet passed your examination you will NOT receive a renewal notice. If you pass the examination by the deadline a renewal notice will be sent to you. If you do not pass the professional growth examination by the deadline date your BAT certificate will be inactivated.

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