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

IMPORTANT UPDATE

WASHINGTON CERTIFICATION SERVICES IS MOVING

This summer Washington Certification Services will be moving to a new Green River College building currently under construction in downtown Auburn. Both the office and the Backflow Assembly Tester (BAT) examination facility will be in the new location. To facilitate our move, there will be no [BAT certification](#) or [professional growth](#) exams scheduled in Auburn in July. Check our online exam schedules for alternate dates and locations.

Applications mailed to our old address after we move will be delayed and applicants may miss the enrollment deadline.

The Washington Certification Services web page, applications and other forms will be updated with our new mailing address as soon as our move date is confirmed. Always check online for the [most current certification and professional growth exam applications](#). Applicants scheduled for exams beginning in August will receive directions to our new Auburn location with their confirmation letters.

REPLACING YOUR COPY OF THE USC NON-ILLUSTRATED FIELD TEST PROCEDURES

University of Southern California's Foundation for Cross-Connection Control and Hydraulic Research (USC) publishes the Manual of Cross Connection Control 10th Edition. This manual contains the field test procedures used to administer Washington's Backflow Assembly Tester examinations, and to test assemblies in the field. The non-illustrated version of the procedures is included in Appendix A of the manual.

To assist Washington's Backflow Assembly Tester examination applicants, Department of Health has special permission from USC to purchase and distribute a booklet containing only the non-illustrated field test procedures. Applicants for an examination may request one copy of the booklet by checking the appropriate box on the application form. For more information, see page 3 of the Winter 2011 issue of USC's Cross Talk newsletter.

USC has special requirements for distribution of the Non-Illustrated Field Test Procedures booklet. Washington Certification Services is authorized to provide a copy at no cost to an exam applicant upon request ONE TIME ONLY!

If your one copy of the Non-Illustrated Field Test Procedures booklet is lost or damaged, WCS cannot provide a replacement. You can [order the Manual of Cross Connection Control](#) 10th Edition from USC. With a 10th Edition manual purchase you can also purchase a laminated abbreviated version of the procedures to carry with you in the field.

ACCIDENTAL ACTIVATION OF THE RELIEF VALVE

Does the USC 10th Edition manual address what a tester should do if they accidentally "dump the relief valve" on the RPBA prior to the actual relief valve opening point (Test No. 1 of the field test procedures)?

According to Paul Schwartz, Chief Engineer at USC's Foundation for Cross Connection Control and Hydraulic Research, all efforts are made in the RPBA field test procedures to prevent the "accidental" activation of the relief valve prior to the actual opening point test. Each time the relief valve is caused to open, the opening point will tend to increase. This means that a relief valve that may have failed the opening point test (<2.0 psid) the first time it opened, may have passed each time the relief valve is opened again.

There is no specific statement in the USC 10th Edition manual that directs a tester to maintain/repair the assembly should they accidentally "dump the relief valve." Exercising the relief valve is not considered a repair function.

A tester in this situation should report the field test results under their control to the best of their ability. The relief valve opening point may not actually have gone from a failing to passing value; it may just have changed from a passing value to a slightly different passing value. The relief valve would only require maintenance if the recorded reading was below 2.0 psid.

Testers should refer to page 26 of the Non-Illustrated Field Test Procedures for detailed diagnostics, and they can read more about exercising the relief valve in the Winter/Spring 2012 edition of [USC's Cross Talk newsletter](#).

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