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Issue 3 - Winter 2014

WELCOME to **BATalk** - an e-newsletter designed to share important certification program information with Washington's certified Backflow Assembly Testers (BAT) that have an email on record with Washington Certification Services (WCS). For more information about the topics in this issue, just click on the link in each article. To update your email address you must complete an **Information Change Form** and mail it to WCS.

NEW RULE DEFINES BAT DUTIES

The revised Waterworks Operator Certification Program Rule has been adopted and is now being implemented. An important new section of the rule spells out the duties of a BAT during inspection and field testing of backflow preventers. In order to protect the public water system, all certified BATs should be aware of their obligation to perform these **duties as defined in WAC 246-292-034.**

NEW BACKFLOW PREVENTION YOUTUBE VIDEOS

The American Water Works Association's (AWWA) Cross Connection Control Committee has produced two public service

videos, available on YouTube, that highlight the importance of proper selection and installation of backflow preventer and cross connection control devices. The 5-minute videos on **Backflow Prevention** and **Backflow Prevention: Assembly Applications & Installations** provide an excellent resource to educate utility staff, boards and decision makers, and the interested public about backflow and cross connection - what it is, how it can happen, and how it can be averted without major costs to the community.

IMPORTANT UPDATE

Final BAT Renewal Deadline is 2/28/14

Second and final **BAT Certification Renewal Notices** have been sent to all certified BATs that did not submit the \$42.00 renewal fee postmarked by January 21, 2014. The final renewal notices were sent via USPS mail, and also via email to certified BATs with an email address on record at WCS. A \$35.00 late fee has been assessed. **To avoid inactivation of your BAT certification, the final renewal payment of \$77.00 must be received or postmarked no later than February 28, 2014.**

PROFESSIONAL GROWTH

If you were certified **before January 1, 2013** you are already into the second year of your three-year professional growth reporting period. So far only 151 BATs in this reporting period have passed their professional growth exam. That still leaves 1088 BATs left to pass their professional growth exams by December 31, 2015! BATs certified **after January 1, 2013** have until December 31, 2018 to meet the requirement the first time.

With less than two years remaining for most BATs to meet the requirement, why wait? You can apply for and pass the professional growth exam **any time during your reporting period**. Remember, passing the exam in 2014 will not change the dates of your next reporting period. **Check your certification and professional growth status online** and **apply for**

your professional growth exam now.

BAT PUBLIC LIST

As a service to both BATs and members of the public, DOH authorizes WCS to maintain a **Public List** of certified BATs by county that can be hired to perform backflow assembly testing services. Being added to the list is voluntary, so if you are not on the list but want to be you must complete an **authorization form** and mail it to WCS.

ABOUT WASHINGTON CERTIFICATION SERVICES

WCS is a division of Green River Community College in Auburn. As a partnering state agency, we are authorized to administer the State of Washington's BAT certification program and examinations following regulations, policies and procedures established by Washington State Department of Health (DOH) Office of Drinking Water and the Waterworks Operator Certification Program.

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