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Issue 6 - Fall 2014

**BATalk** - is an electronic newsletter sharing important certification program information with Washington's Backflow Assembly Testers (BAT). For more information about the topics in this issue, just click on the link in each article.

### IMPORTANT UPDATE

#### *DOH Complaint Investigation*

The Waterworks Operator Certification Program receives and investigates complaints filed by an individual, utility or business against a BAT, or by a BAT against a Cross Connection Control Specialist (CCS) or utility. Following are examples of some of the most common complaints filed.

#### **Drive-By Testing**

A utility filed a complaint after field test reports submitted by the BAT incorrectly identified RPBA's at locations that had DCVAs. The reports indicated testing had been completed on five assemblies, but pictures taken two days after the report date showed four of the five almost completely buried with cobwebs through the interior, under the cover, and over the soil. This is an ongoing complaint investigation.

#### **Incorrect Installation**

A common issue has been the installation of RPBA's in

underground vaults. Due to potential cross-connection occurring if an atmospheric vent or port becomes submerged in a flooded vault, there are very limited circumstances where a pit, vault or other underground or submerged location could be allowed.

In 2013 a BAT informed the purveyor's CCS that seven RPBA's were incorrectly installed in underground vaults and close to surface water that was tidally influenced. In 2014 the BAT found all seven still installed as they had been the year before with one assembly submerged. After notifying the purveyor that the submerged unit could not be tested, the BAT was informed that a previous BAT had "just pumped the water out" to perform the test. He refused to test the submerged RPBA, informed the utility superintendent of the situation directly, and **filed a complaint** with the Waterworks Operator Certification Program.

Fraudulent testing is considered a serious threat to public drinking water. The **revised rule** provides the **authority to seek revocation or suspension** of an operator's certification. All involved parties, the Department's regional offices, and local health work together to seek a resolution to complaints that are filed.

## BATalk NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE

The BATalk newsletter contains important information for certified BATs in Washington. Have you ever wanted to refer back to a previous issue, but the email containing the electronic newsletter has been deleted? You can now view and download **past issues of BATalk** on the Washington Certification Services web page.

## RESCHEDULING YOUR BAT PRACTICAL EXAM



- Examination fees are non-refundable and may not be transferred to a different applicant.
- After an applicant is approved and scheduled for the practical examination, **one voluntary transfer** to a different examination date or location is allowed at no cost.
- Applicants that have passed the practical examination must follow the **AMP testing service scheduling procedures** for the computer-based portion of the certification examination.

**IMPORTANT -- If you need to reschedule your BAT practical examination, you must contact Washington Certification Services no later than the published application deadline date for the exam you are enrolled in.**

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