

INCIDENT: Problems with Valve Shuts off Drinking Water at Batavia High School
LOCATION: Batavia, Illinois
SOURCE: The Beacon-News
DATE OF INCIDENT: 11/1/2010

An investigation into the potential failure of a backflow valve caused a bit of commotion about the drinking water at Batavia High School. On Monday, the school brought in bottled water for students and staff to drink as a precautionary measure, while contractors and city water department personnel tested the system to pinpoint the source of discolored water that came out of a custodial utility sink in the morning hours. Batavia Superintendent Jack Barshinger said Monday's preliminary testing did not reveal any contaminants in the water system. He said the Kane County Health Department and Kane County Regional Office of Education were notified. "From the preliminary testing, we haven't found any of the chemicals that would be expected from that area of the building that would have gotten through a backflow preventer," Barshinger said. The high school administration canceled all after-school activities to give the plumbers and mechanics full access to the building. Barshinger said an outside environmental testing agency and city water department personnel would be doing further testing and the high school water system would be flushed overnight. Bottled water will continue to be available to students on Tuesday, and hand sanitation stations in the restrooms and in other locations have been set up. Students are encouraged to bring bottled water Tuesday. School officials said the procedures will continue until the water system meets all safety standards.