



AMERICAN BACKFLOW PREVENTION ASSOCIATION

Position Statement Concerning WATER-OPERATED BACKUP SUMP PUMPS

In pursuit of the stated goals of the American Backflow Prevention Association (ABPA) of protecting the quality and integrity of clean drinking water, the Board of Directors believes that a Position Statement regarding “Water-Operated Backup Sump Pumps” is essential.

A water-operated backup sump pump poses a potential backflow hazard via the cross-connection between the potable water supply and any contaminated water in the sump pit. This potential hazard is increased during flooding conditions. The main sump pump creates the potential of imposing backpressure against the water supply line to the water-operated backup sump pump if the discharge lines are combined. A pressure vacuum breaker assembly is not designed to provide the level of protection necessary if a backpressure situation occurs.

In order to ensure the continuing integrity of the drinking water served to the public, it is the position of the ABPA that all cross-connections either be eliminated or protected with the appropriate means of protection commensurate with the actual or potential degree of hazard, and as required by the authority having jurisdiction.

Therefore, it is the position of the ABPA that the main sump pump and water-operated backup sump pump should have completely separate discharge piping where a water-operated sump pump is installed. The water-operated sump pump poses a potential high hazard and should be protected by a backflow prevention assembly commensurate with the degree of hazard.

*Approved by the ABPA Board of Directors: May 25, 2011 - San Antonio, Texas
Reapproved: May 16, 2015 – Nashville, Tennessee*