



AMERICAN BACKFLOW PREVENTION ASSOCIATION

Position Statement Concerning BACKFLOW PREVENTION ASSEMBLIES FOR IRRIGATION SPRINKLER SYSTEMS

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 “Backflow Prevention Assemblies for Irrigation Sprinkler Systems” is essential.

National model plumbing codes acknowledge irrigation sprinkler systems as a high hazard that require appropriate protection such as a reduced pressure principle backflow prevention assembly, a pressure vacuum breaker assembly, spill resistant vacuum breaker or an atmospheric vacuum breaker assembly.

The ABPA concurs with the high (health) hazard designation for irrigation sprinkler systems. The actual assembly requirement must be commensurate with the high hazard designation and should be determined by the local jurisdiction having authority.

Further, it is understood that irrigation sprinkler systems for residential or commercial applications contain the same basic piping and irrigation heads. As backsiphonage is the primary concern for most irrigation sprinkler systems, the installation of an approved backflow preventer commensurate with that degree of hazard remains the same for both commercial and residential applications.

Therefore, in order to ensure the potable water system is not compromised, it is the position of the ABPA that backflow preventers commensurate to a high degree of hazard be installed and maintained on irrigation sprinkler systems.

Approved by the ABPA Board of Directors: April 12, 2006 – San Antonio, Texas

Reapproved: May 19, 2010 – New Orleans, Louisiana

Reapproved: May 16, 2015 – Nashville, Tennessee