

# City of Santa Fe Backflow Prevention and Control Program



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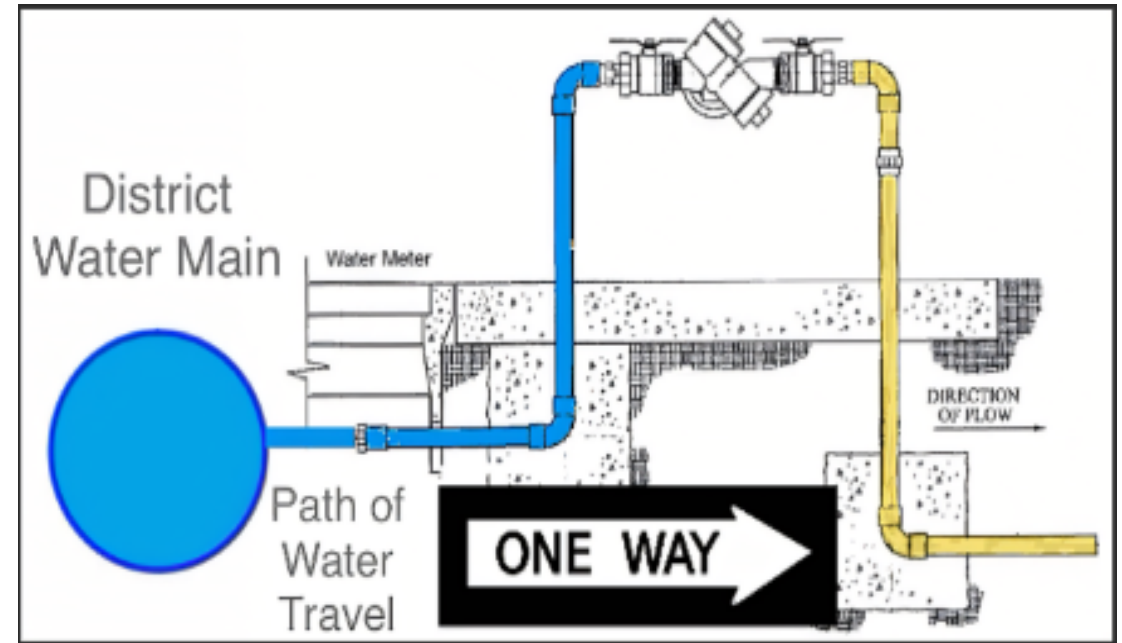
# Backflow

- Undesirable reversal of water flow from beyond a water meter back into water system
- Can be caused by loss of pressure in the water system (e.g. due to a main break) or an increase in pressure on the customers side (e.g. due to a connected well or pump for multi-story buildings)
- Represents a threat to the safety of our water



# Importance of a Backflow Prevention Program

- Reduction of potential threat to the safety of our water
- Backflow prevention assemblies are required by plumbing code
- A backflow prevention program ensures these required assemblies are tested after installation and every year after



# Backflow Prevention Program as Best Practice

- Best practice followed by utilities of our size (Rio Rancho, Las Cruces, Los Alamos, Albuquerque all have backflow prevention programs)
- Significant backflow contamination events have occurred nationally
- At least one hazardous backflow contamination event has occurred in our system



Backflow prevention assembly on fire service on Shoofly

# Where are Backflow Prevention Devices required?

- Fire suppression systems (~500 in CoSF)
- Commercial water meters (~500 in CoSF)
- Irrigation water meters (~1000 in CoSF)
- Residential water meters where there is a well on the property (~100s in CoSF)



Backflow prevention assembly near Restoration Pizza in railyard

# Water usage data

- Using our water usage software, we can see when backflows occur at the customers meter



# RPZ Backflow Preventer installed to eliminate backflow from well to City's Water System



# Fire Service Backflow Preventer.



El Castillo Life Plan Community fire service  
Hot Box painted to match stucco of building



8" fire service for El Castillo Life  
Plan Community buildings



Irrigation Backflow Preventer



# Commercial Backflow Preventer

Commercial water and ice dispensing machine on Cerrillos with backflow preventer installed