December 2019

LETTER FROM THE BOARD

Happy holidays from “on tap” the Leeds Domestic Water Users Association Newsletter.

As the holiday season is upon us, we find ourselves reflecting on the past year, it’s been quite a year for us all! We would like to express our sincerest appreciation for the trust you have placed in us and best wishes for the holidays. Thank you for your continued support and partnership. We look forward to working with you in the years to come.

Watch out for contamination!

Millions of taxpayer dollars are spent every year to protect drinking water sources, water delivery systems, and treatment facilities. However, even with the best infrastructure, the integrity of the drinking water system and the quality of the water can be compromised by a single cross connection. The resulting backflow can cause illness and in an extreme case, even death.

Cross connections and backflow incidences in Utah have resulted in dangerous, highly contaminated water unexpectedly entering drinking water systems. Irrigation waters, oil, toxic boiler compounds, sewage, pesticides, and other extremely dangerous contaminants have found their way into drinking water systems.

We recommend each shareholder take time to understand how cross connections & backflows can affect our water supply and what actions each of us need to do to protect our drinking water system.

Check out our new brochure on Understanding Backflow & Cross Connections.

VIEW BROCHURE

Watch this brief video which explains what cross connections and backflow are.

WATCH VIDEO

Visit our LDWA website to review more details about cross connection control.

VISIT **NEW** WEBSITE

CROSS CONNECTIONS

What is backflow, what causes it and how can it be prevented?

BACKFLOW is a serious occurrence in drinking water systems. When a CROSS CONNECTION exists, there is the potential for contaminants to enter your drinking water. This brochure will explain what a cross connection is how backflow occurs and what you can do to ensure our drinking water is kept safe.

----- DEFINITIONS -----

BACKFLOW is the reversing of normal water flow direction. Normally, water under pressure in the City water main flows INTO your home. A sudden drop in pressure can reverse the water flow. When this happens, water can be "sucked" OUT of your home or business and into the City's water system.

A CROSS CONNECTION is an actual or potential link between the City's drinking water system and a non-potable water source. In a home, this water source could be a swimming pool, a water-cooled air conditioner or a hot water tank.

When backflow occurs through a cross connection, the results can be serious.

- In 1980, raw sewage was siphoned into the water supply of a crab processing plant in Alaska. The incident caused 200 employees to become ill and endangered approximately $35 million of processed king crab.
- In 2005, residents of Stratford, ON, were warned not to drink, wash their hands, bathe or give tap water to pets. Approximately 5 gallons of a brush detergent from a car wash, containing the chemical 2-Butoxyethanol, was sucked into the drinking water system, turning it pink.

These true examples may seem remote, but the potential for similar incidents also exist in the Town of Leeds, Utah.

Leeds Domestic Water Users Association Regulations

For more information about Leeds Domestic Water Users Association's (LDWA) regulations visit: http://ldwacorp.org/ldwa-resolutions-policies-standards/

Please do your part in keeping our community's drinking water safe for everyone by checking for cross connections.

LDWA

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Protecting our Drinking Water

LEEDS DOMESTIC WATER USERS ASSOCIATION

BACKFLOW IN A RESIDENTIAL SETTING

In a normal house, backflow could occur if a water main break or a fire occurred in your neighbourhood. Events like these and other similar events can cause a sudden drop in water pressure, creating the potential for water to flow backwards into the city watermain.

BACKFLOW IN AN INDUSTRIAL SETTING

In an industrial setting, backflow can occur when a non-potable water system operating under high pressure (by means of a pump or boiler) is connected to the drinking water system. If pressure is suddenly lost in the city main, water from the non-potable system will be sucked into the public drinking water system.

HOW SERIOUS IS BACKFLOW?

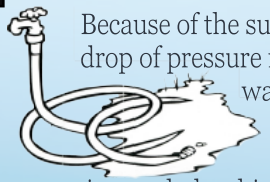
Any time contaminants are allowed to flow into the drinking water system, there is a potential for health risks. The illustrations below show how we can prevent backflow from happening.

An easy way to visualize backflow is to think about sucking on a straw. Your mouth provides negative pressure to transfer water out of the glass. If you stop sucking on the straw, the water in the straw drains back into the glass. Now the glass contains all the water that was in the straw, as well as some water that was in your mouth. The illustration below shows how backflow could occur in your home.

1 

Let's say a construction crew accidentally digs up a water main in your neighbourhood.
The water in the main is normally under pressure. The break, however, will cause a sudden drop in pressure.This creates BACKFLOW from your home.

2 Now, let's say you have a garden hose running and it is laying in a water source like a pool, a pond, or a puddle.
This creates a CROSS CONNECTION.

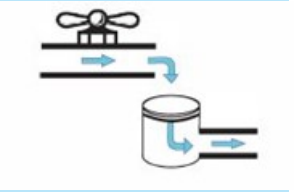
3 

Because of the suction created by the drop of pressure in the city main, the water in the pool or puddle will be sucked back through the hose pipe into our internal plumbing, and then out into the Town's drinking water system.

4 When water pressure returns to normal, the contaminated water from the pool or puddle is now in the city's main and in your house plumbing. Contaminated water can create a serious health risk.

Examples of Backflow Preventers

A physical separation between potable water pipes and non-potable water source.



Double Check Valve Assembly (DCVA)

When backflow occurs, spring loaded check valves close to create a seal and stop the water from flowing backwards.

Reduced Pressure Principle Backflow Assembly (RPBA)

Spring loaded valves open when backflow is present allowing contaminated water to drain out harmlessly.