

**BULLETIN #1**  
**EPWU Cross-Connection Control Program**

Date: November, 2005

From: El Paso Water Utilities Cross-Connection Control Program Manager

To: Certified Backflow Prevention Assembly Test Technicians

- 1) REVISED PROCEDURES MANUAL – EPWU has recently updated the EPWU Cross-Connection Control Manual of Procedures (Manual). The current version has a revision date of April 12, 1999. The updated version has a revision date of November 2005. The updated Manual and revision history is now available for download on this website in Adobe Acrobat pdf format. Please make sure to download and review these important documents.
- 2) NEW TEST FORM - Please remember that the grace period for using the old test forms was October 31, 2005. Only the new test forms should be accepted after that date.
- 3) INSULATION SHROUDS - EPWU Rules and Regulations require that backflow prevention assemblies have adequate freeze protection. For small backflows, you should carry some type of wrap-on insulation with you at all times and insulate any small backflows that need it, and charge the customer for this if necessary. Advise the customer that EPWU regulations require freeze protection, and that it will be more expensive for him to have to repair or replace the backflow if it were to suffer freeze damage.

The EPWU Cross-Connection Control Manual of Procedures states: “Protective enclosures must be installed and maintained so that backflow prevention assemblies are safely and readily accessible for testing, maintenance and repairs and any insulation installed directly on the assembly shall be designed and constructed to allow for verification of the assembly size, make, model, and serial number for identification purposes during annual testing. (see Section VI.C, General Requirements, on page 10 of the Manual). Many large assemblies have rigid insulation shrouds. If this shroud prevents the identification or proper testing and repair of the assembly, it must be modified or removed to allow it. If the owner does not agree to have this done, advise him that you cannot test the assembly without the ability to verify this information. Do not submit test reports for assemblies for which you were not able to verify the Make, Model, and Serial Number!

- 4) ASSEMBLY TESTS – Please take care to write legibly on the test form. Some test forms that have been faxed to EPWU are hard to read because of poor

penmanship and/or the writing is too light. Use block letters and make sure the ink is dark enough to show up in the fax. Also, make sure an include the meter number associated with the backflow assembly. If you are replacing an assembly, be sure to include the old assembly information where indicated on the test form.

- 5) CERTIFICATION TRAINING - One of the test techs has informed me that a company called Sundance Irrigation Training may be offering certification training classes in Las Cruces and/or El Paso in the near future. The contact person for this company is Jerry Lewis and he can be reached toll free at 1-800-828-9275. Of course, Viking II has been offering training classes for some time now and hopefully will continue to do so. The website addresses for both these companies are provided for in the EPWU website technician section.