

Backflow Prevention Assembly (BPA) Rules

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) requires annual testing of all BPA's used on lawn irrigation systems where an On-Site Sewage facility (OSSF) is utilized. This includes everyone in Scenic Oaks and Country Estates that utilize a central irrigation system. Your BPA must be tested annually by a Licensed Backflow Prevention Assembly Tester (BPAT). The annual test requirement is not an option and failure to comply can and will result in a disconnection of your water service.

During the past two years each customer was required to contract with a tester of their choice for the annual test. With 218 different customers managing their own test accomplishments, both TOWSC and the customers encountered many problems. As a result, we conducted a survey to determine if our customers would support a contract program centrally managed by TOWSC for accomplishment of the annual test requirement. The overwhelming majority (84.7%) of those who responded supported the contract program. Based on these results, we proceeded with issuance of a bid request to potential bidders for testing and minor repair but not major repair. We selected Carl's Backflow Testing & Repair, LLC at a unit cost of \$60.00. The contract program begins 1 Jan 2020. *The unit cost increased to \$65 in ~2022 and \$70 in 2025.*

The contract will include all annual tests required. The contractor will also perform minor repair if such repair will enable the unit to pass required tests. Minor repair is that which can be accomplished without parts replacement. Major repair and replacement remain a member responsibility. Cost of tests after major repair or replacement will not be covered by the contract

In the event a unit fails test and must be repaired or replaced, the contractor must advise TOWSC within one day or by the next workday. TOWSC will immediately advise the member of the failure. The member will have 10 days or until the end of the month, whichever is longer, to complete repair or replacement. The member may contract with the test contractor or any licensed contractor of their choice for the repair or replacement. Failure to accomplish repair or replacement within the prescribed time frame will result in service termination. Please remember that a double check valve unit which cannot be repaired in place must be replaced by a reduced pressure unit.

Under the contract program members will no longer need to be concerned with annual test dates. Members' tests will be automatically scheduled. The contractor will provide TOWSC with the test report and will be paid by TOWSC. The contractor's charge will be included in the monthly water bill for that month. TOWSC will not mark up the contractor's charge.

We have revised the monthly test schedule so that approximately the same number of tests are required each month. The test dates for 2020 and beyond may vary from the past. However, there will only be one test required each year and for 2020 and beyond, it will be the same month each year. You may opt out of this program if you wish. However, TOWSC will not manage those accounts that do not participate. We will advise you of your permanent test required date and you will be totally responsible for insuring accomplishment each year. Failure will result in service disconnection and a \$100.00 penalty for such failure.