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Issue 13 - Summer 2016

BATalk - is an electronic newsletter sharing important certification program information with Washington's Backflow Assembly Testers (BAT).

IMPORTANT UPDATE

WCS MOVING SOON

Washington Certification Services is moving soon to a new Green River College location. The office and the Backflow Assembly Tester (BAT) examination facility will both be in the new downtown Auburn Center. Services may be disrupted for several days during the move meaning staff will have very limited access to the computer network, but we will do our best to respond to voice mail messages.

When exams are scheduled at the new facility, applicants will receive notification and directions by email with their exam confirmation information.

The Washington Certification Services web page and forms will be updated with our new mailing address as soon as our move

is completed. Always check online for the [most current certification and professional growth examination application procedures](#).

DOH INVESTIGATES BAT COMPLAINTS

Sometimes a complaint against a Backflow Assembly Tester (BAT) leaves little doubt about wrongdoing. Many times limited evidence of extenuating circumstances makes decision-making more difficult. Department of Health (DOH) is piloting a new procedure to expand BAT investigations to gather supplemental evidence. We are asking the BAT identified in a complaint to send copies of their completed test report forms to us for evaluation. Test reports are then randomly selected and DOH coordinates with the corresponding utility to "spot-check" the work of the BAT.

Department of Health always prefers to change an operator's behavior rather than revoke or suspend a certification.

The length of the investigation is dependent on the initial complaint and the existing evidence. The additional evidence can show a positive change in behavior or prove the complaint to be valid and show cause for additional action. It is important that all certified testers understand the [Duties of a BAT](#). To file a complaint with DOH, use the [Waterworks Operator Complaint Form](#).

EXAMS SCHEDULED IN BELLINGHAM

August and September are busy months for Backflow Assembly Tester (BAT) examinations! [Professional growth](#) and [certification](#) examinations will be held in Auburn, Bellingham, Spokane and Vancouver.

The Bellingham examination site at Whatcom Community College saves applicants in Northwest Washington up to 200 miles of commute time.

If you are a certified BAT living in the Bellingham area consider applying for the professional growth examination scheduled on August 30, 2016. A certification examination is scheduled on August 29th, so encourage anyone that wants to become certified to apply. Information about BAT training available in Bellingham in August can be found on the [WETRC web page](#).

KENNEWICK ENFORCES BACKFLOW TESTING

According to an article published in the July 7, 2016 edition of the Tri-City Herald, City of Kennewick is now emphasizing enforcement of its back flow assembly testing requirements. Cary Roe, Public Works Director, realized cross connection wasn't getting the emphasis it needed and challenged his department to get better.

"The intent of the Cross Connection Control Program is to protect the City's water system from coming in contact with any contaminate that may enter into the water distribution system"

Beginning in January city water customers began receiving letters explaining the program and why inspections are important. The City has also posted a YouTube video that shows how backflow assemblies work and why they are important in protecting public health and water quality.

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