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In This Issue...

Online Validation Cards

H2Ops Newsletter

Elevation of the Test Kit

Professional Growth

Deadline

Quick Links:

[BAT Home](#)

[BAT Certification Status](#)

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

IMPORTANT UPDATE

ONLINE BAT & WATERWORKS VALIDATION CARDS

Both [BAT validation cards](#) and [waterworks operator validation cards](#) are now only available online. These cards identify individuals as certified in Washington for the renewal year and can be printed or saved as a PDF on a computer.

Hard copy certification validation cards are no longer printed and mailed. BATs and waterworks operators must login online to view, print and save their 2018 validation card.

To login and view your card you will need the last four digits of your social security number and your certification number. For waterworks operators this process is exactly the same as the one already used to login to the online professional growth report.

2018 cards are available to access through October of 2018. Beginning in November of 2018, eligible BATs and waterworks

operators must pay their annual renewal fee online for 2019. Once the renewal fee has been processed by Washington Certification Services, you will be able to access your new 2019 validation card.

SUBSCRIBE TO H2Ops NEWSLETTERS

Did you know the Office of Drinking Water publishes a quarterly newsletter for water system owners and operators? Each issue of the H2Ops newsletter focuses on a topic relevant to drinking water operations such as cross connection control, drought, sanitary surveys, metering and sampling.

The H2Ops newsletter is a great resource and contains a wealth of relevant information.

The March 2018 issue will cover wellhead protection. You can [access past issues](#) and [subscribe to receive new issues](#) directly to your email inbox.

PROPER ELEVATION OF THE TEST KIT

A question commonly asked by Backflow Assembly Testers is "Why does it matter if I hold the test kit at the proper elevation while testing assemblies both during a State examination and in the field?" The USC 10th Edition field test procedures currently approved by Washington State Department of Health specify when it is necessary to maintain your test kit and connected hoses at the proper elevation in order to receive an accurate reading. According to the approved procedures, this applies when testing the check valves on the DCVA as well as the check valve and air inlet valve on the PVBA.

REMEMBER- If the field test procedures require that you maintain your test kit and connected hoses at a proper elevation, you are required to do so during a State examination as well as testing backflow devices in the field.

To fully understand the importance of maintaining your test kit at proper elevation, test an assembly holding it at the correct elevation and observe the values. Next, place your test kit on

the floor and observe the reading on the test kit. You will find that the values have changed based on the elevation of the test kit.

You can obtain your own copy of the [10th Edition Field Test Procedures](#) by purchasing the Manual of Cross Connection Control, 10th Edition directly from the University of Southern California Foundation for Cross Connection Control and Hydraulic Research.

2018 PROFESSIONAL GROWTH DEADLINE

December 31, 2018 is the professional growth deadline for all Backflow Assembly Testers certified before January 1, 2016. BATs certified after that date have until December 31, 2021 to meet the professional growth requirement the first time.

WHY WAIT? APPLY NOW! With only 9 months left to pass the professional growth examination, avoid the rush and take advantage of availability for your preferred date and location.

Professional growth examinations are added to the [online schedule](#) about three months in advance. Just select your preferred examination date and location, then submit the [online application](#) and payment.

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