



CITY OF TOPEKA

PUBLIC WORKS, Water Division
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September 29, 2008

To All Plumbing Contractors, Certified Backflow/Testers Technicians, and Lawn Irrigation System Contractors:

The purpose of this letter is to notify you of the City's changes in processes regarding our backflow prevention, cross connection control program, and lawn irrigation system installations. The City recently passed Ordinance No. 19123, which transfers the responsibility of conducting the cross connection control and backflow prevention program from the Development Services Division to the Water Division. The changes are as follows:

1. Backflow Prevention Device/Assembly Installations Outside the City:

Per City of Topeka Ordinance No. 18702, the City no longer performs building inspections outside the City limits. The Development Services Division continues to issue permits and trade licenses to backflow testers/technicians for inside City installations of backflow preventers, and perform inspections within the City limits. However, since our public water supply system provides water service to areas outside the City limits, the Water Division must continue to (a) ensure the drinking water supply is kept safe, (b) eliminate any actual or potential cross connection, and (c) prevent backflow contamination that could enter our water supply system.

Requirements for backflow prevention outside the City are as identified in the enclosed Water Division policy and available on www.topeka.org/publicworks/water_div_admin.shtml. As stated in the policy, the Water Division has adopted the Uniform Plumbing Code (UPC), and its amendments contained in the City of Topeka Codebook, Chapter 26. Fees associated with Outside City backflow prevention installations are addressed in Item 4 of this letter.

2. Lawn Irrigation Systems Installations Inside the City: *Note: For the purpose of this letter, we refer to "lawn sprinkler system" as "lawn irrigation system." Although the Uniform Plumbing Code (UPC) uses the terms interchangeably, the Kansas Statutes and City of Topeka Codebook reference "irrigation" versus "sprinkler" to distinguish from fire sprinklers.*

The popularity of underground lawn irrigation systems in Topeka has increased dramatically over the past few years. As a result of the increased demand for these systems, many new lawn irrigation system contracting companies have been established. At the request of several Lawn Irrigation System Contractors, the City of Topeka Public Works Department created a trade license to regulate the business of lawn irrigation system installation and repair. Installation rules and regulations were created from many sources including City of Topeka Codebook, Chapter 26, UPC and common installation procedures. Over the years many variations and interpretations of these codes and procedures have been



enforced by City staff. This has created confusion concerning acceptable installation of lawn irrigation systems in Topeka.

In an effort to alleviate the confusion, the following policies in accordance with City of Topeka Codebook, shall be strictly and consistently enforced:

- Fixture counts per the City of Topeka Codebook, Chapter 26 shall apply. Connection to established properties with existing water systems, with the intention to only run lawn sprinklers early in the morning or late at night, is not permissible.
- Connection to any water service where the addition of lawn irrigation systems will cause water service to become undersized, per the UPC and its amendments in the City of Topeka Codebook, Chapter 26, is not permissible.

Per City of Topeka Codebook, Chapter 26, the UPC dictates City of Topeka policy regarding lawn irrigation system installations. Installation procedures for lawn irrigation systems must be in accordance with the City’s policy. The Development Services Division continues to issue permits and licenses to Lawn Irrigation System Contractors for inside City installations of lawn irrigation systems. The enclosed City of Topeka Lawn Irrigation System Installation Procedures for Inside City are also available on www.topeka.org/publicworks/water_div_admin.shtml. Following these procedures will help to ensure a smooth, trouble-free installation of lawn irrigation systems in Topeka.

3. Lawn Irrigation Systems Installations Outside the City:

Enclosed are City of Topeka Lawn Irrigation System Installation Procedures for Outside City, and the requirements for backflow prevention outside the City as identified in the enclosed Water Division policy. Both documents are also available on www.topeka.org/publicworks/water_div_admin.shtml. Fees associated with Outside City lawn irrigation system installations are addressed in Item 4 of this letter.

4. Cross Connection Control and Backflow Prevention Fees:

Prior to the adoption of Ordinance No. 18702, the City assessed fees for permits and inspections performed whether inside or outside the City limits. Since the Development Services Division no longer issues permits or performs inspections outside the City, the Water Division will assess charges associated with connecting to our water supply system outside the City limits, including plan reviews associated with cross connection control. Therefore, the fees indicated in the chart below, which are included in the City of Topeka Utilities Fees and Charges Schedule available on www.topeka.org/publicworks/water_div_admin.shtml, will be effective January 1, 2009.

CROSS CONNECTION CONTROL AND BACKFLOW PREVENTION FEES (Outside City only)	
Type of Fee	Amount
Lawn Irrigation System Installation Fee	<i>Includes Backflow Prevention Connection Fee</i>
Residential (Single or Multi-family)	\$ 92.75
Commercial/Industrial	\$ 180.25
Backflow Prevention Connection Fee	<i>(Installation or Replacement)</i>
Residential (Single or Multi-family)	\$ 92.75
Commercial/Industrial	\$ 180.25
<i>Note: Inside City charges are assessed by Development Services Division.</i>	

If you have any questions concerning our Cross Connection Program, please contact Mr. Terry Randles, Cross Connection Inspector, at (785) 368-1624.

Sincerely,

Don Rankin

Encl: (1) Installation Procedures for Lawn Irrigation Systems
(2) Water Division Backflow Prevention and Cross Connection Control Policy

cc: Mike Teply, Public Works Director
Miriam Berke, Development Services Director
Larry Shannon, Technical Services Section Manager
Terry Randles, Cross Connection Inspector
Darrell Weekley, Infrastructure Manager
Ken Bass, Engineer
Penny Ehalt, Accounts Receivable Clerk