

# Clean Water Ambassador Meeting

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February 24, 2022

# How to ask a question



Type your question into the chat.

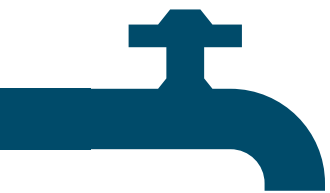


Click the “hand” icon at the top of your screen.



Type #2 to raise your hand.





# Agenda



## **Welcome and Review of Agenda**

Anita Singh, EGLE



## **Fix a Leak Week**

Emily Posthumus, EGLE



## **Updates & Reminders**

Emily Posthumus, EGLE



## **Backflow Prevention for Your Home**

Ernie Sarkipato, EGLE



## **Ambassador Updates & Discussion**

# Fix a Leak Week

Emily Posthumus, EGLE



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Office of the Clean  
Water Public Advocate

# Fix a Leak Week

- March 14 – 20
  - Mon: Get the word out by sharing on social media (#FixALeak Week, #MIFixALeak)
  - Tues: Why leaks matter (save water, save energy, save money)
  - Wed: Challenge residents to find and fix leaks within their home (#IFixLeaks)
  - Thurs: Spotlight on energy utility efficiency programs
  - Fri: Other ways to get involved

# Updates & Reminders

Emily Posthumus, EGLE



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# Upcoming Opportunities

- Public meetings on Environmental Justice Considerations Related to Drinking Water Regulation for PFAS. *Registration is required*
  - March 2 from 1 – 4 pm
  - April 5 from 5 – 8 pm
- Job opportunities in Benton Harbor (March 2022 – April 2023) for lead pipeline replacement project. No experience necessary, BH residents encouraged to apply.

# Reminders & Updates

- Progress on Filter First legislation
- EPA announces availability of \$20 million under the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIIN) Act in alignment with the Justice40 Initiative
- Upcoming CWA Meetings:
  - March 31 – Demonstration of Mi EJ Tool (tentative)
  - April 28 – Contamination Investigation Unit



# Backflow Protection for Your Home

Ernie Sarkipato, P.E.

Distribution Engineering Specialist

Engineering Unit, EGLE



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# Safe Drinking Water Act - Protecting America's Public Health



## MULTIPLE RISKS REQUIRE MULTIPLE BARRIERS

Safe drinking water is essential to the health of American citizens and the economic health of our communities. However, drinking water is vulnerable to contamination from many potential threats. There are programs and activities that when operated effectively form a protective web of multiple barriers to ensure the safety of our drinking water. The success of these barriers relies on the involvement and vigilance of local, state and federal officials, the private sector, public interest groups and individual citizens.

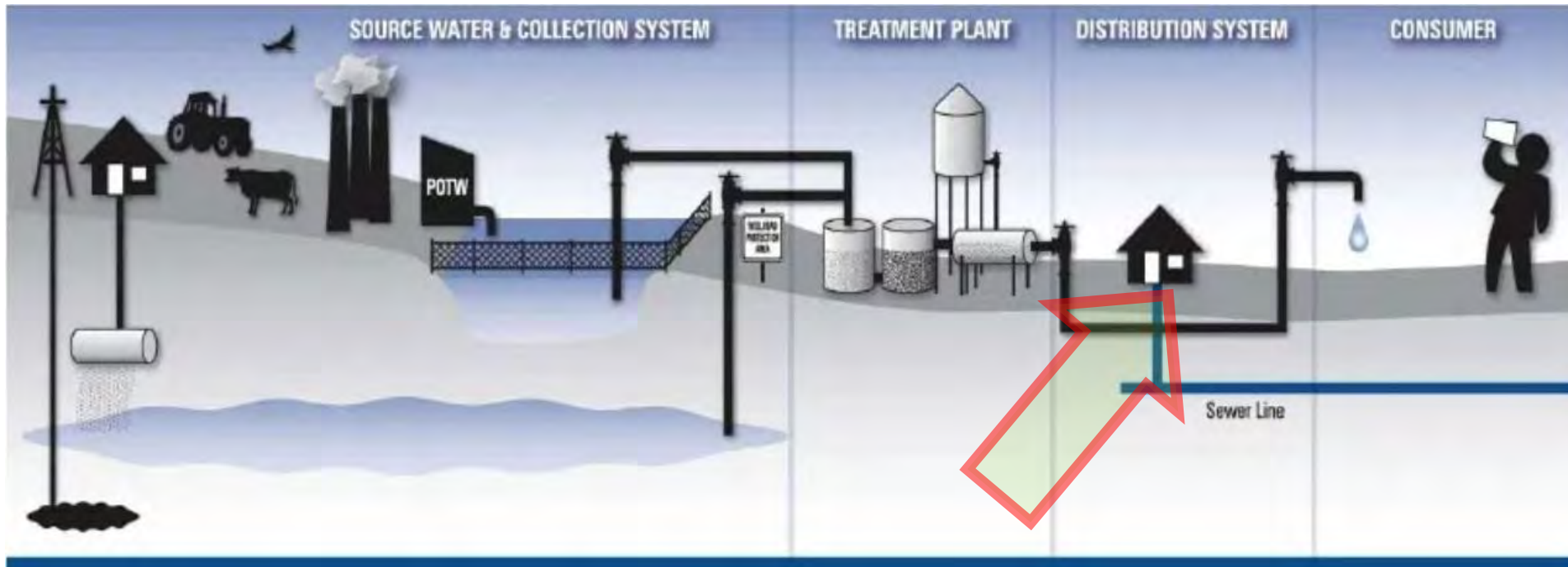
This poster identifies examples of

1. Surface and groundwater sources of drinking water (in blue).
2. Potential threats to those drinking water sources (in red), and
3. The multiple barriers that together protect our nation's public health (in green):  
 Risk Prevention Barrier  
 Risk Management Barrier  
 Risk Monitoring and Compliance Barrier  
 Individual Action Barrier

Safe Drinking Water Hotline - (800) 426-4791 Safewater Web Site - [www.epa.gov/safewater](http://www.epa.gov/safewater)



# Multiple Barriers to Contamination



Risk

Why is this important?

Roles

What do I need to do, and who do I work with?

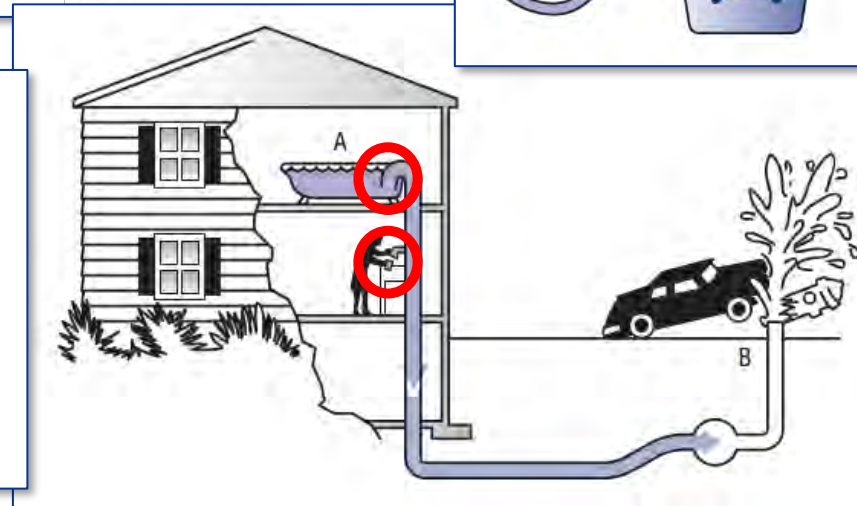
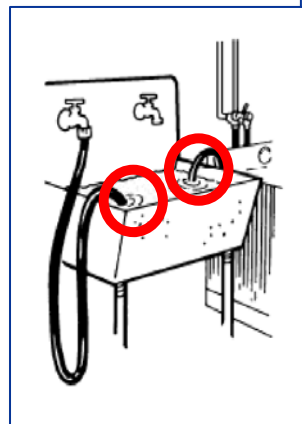
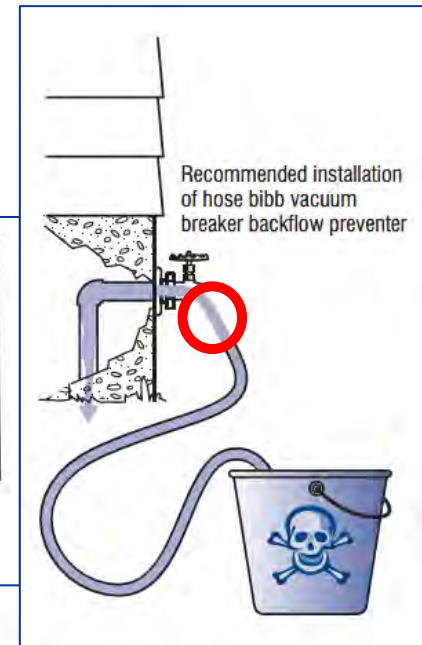
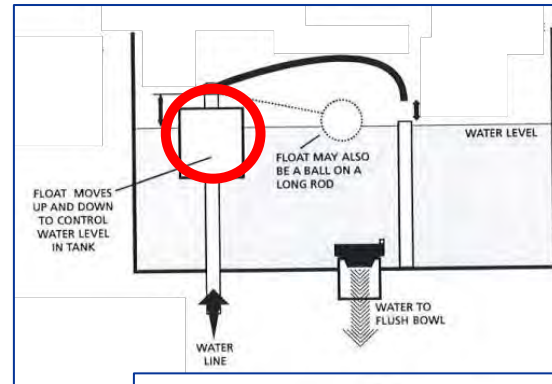
Reward

What is the benefit?

# Backflow

Water systems are designed to bring water to your home.

When things go wrong, the system can flow backwards!

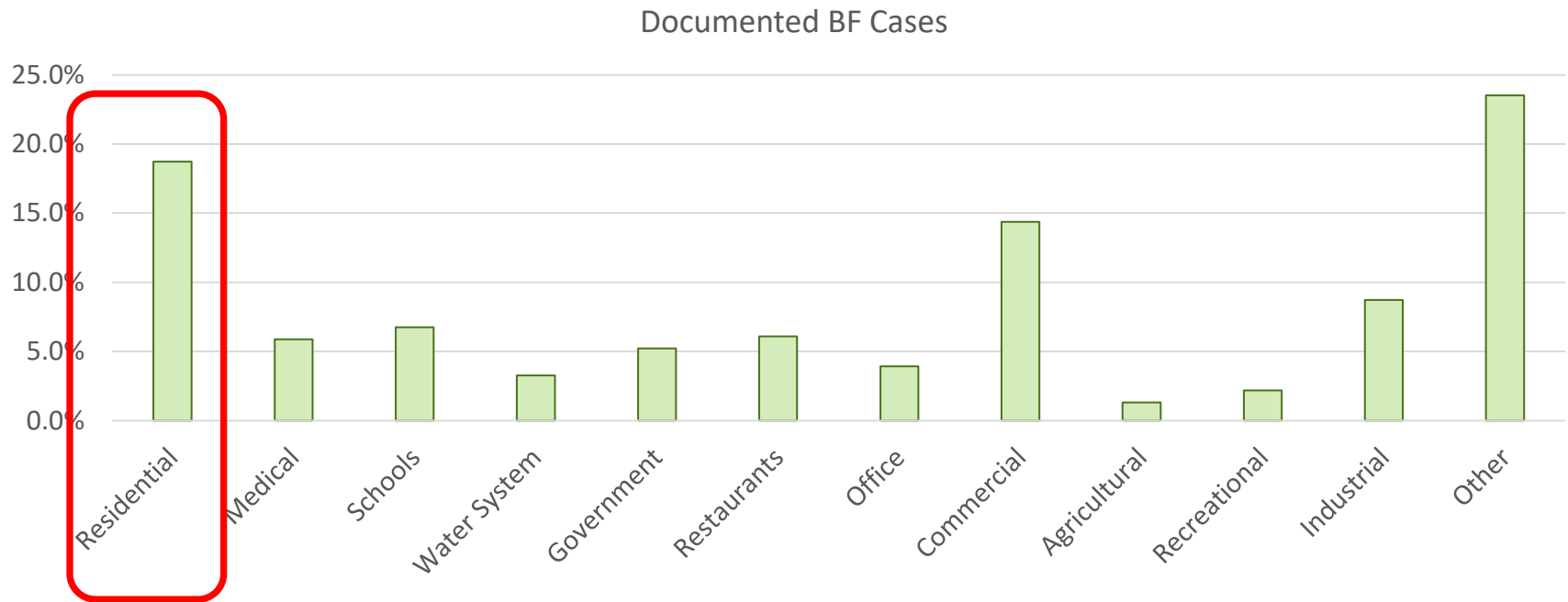


# Known BF Incidents

- From 1981 to 1998, CDC documented 57 waterborne disease outbreaks related to cross-connections, resulting in **9,734 illnesses**.
- EPA research from 1970 to 2001 found 459 incidents resulting in an estimated **12,0932 illnesses**.



# Backflow Incidents (1970-2001 )



EPA white paper, 2002

# Risk of Backflow

Residential

- Residential customers are the majority (80-95%)
- **Most backflow incidents will be short lived and undetected**
- High risks do exist in homes



**Residential Backflow is a significant risk!!!!!!**



# Risk of Backflow

Residential

A Commerce City family has been awarded nearly \$1 million in damages after drinking water contaminated with raw sewage.	Denver, CO	Friday, October 26, 2012	Residential	<a href="http://denver.cbslocal.com/2012/10/26/commerce-city-family-awarded-nearly-1m-for-contaminated-water/">http://denver.cbslocal.com/2012/10/26/commerce-city-family-awarded-nearly-1m-for-contaminated-water/</a>
Bacteria known as coliform was discovered in the school's drinking water after a routine sample testing.	Malta, Idaho	Friday, September 28, 2012	School	<a href="http://minicassia-voice.com/featured/bacteria-found-in-raft-river-schools/">http://minicassia-voice.com/featured/bacteria-found-in-raft-river-schools/</a>
A cross-connection between an irrigation system and the culinary water system causes 13 families to get sick, some with <i>Giardia</i> .	Cedar Hills, Utah	Monday, September 17, 2012	Residential / Irrigation	<a href="http://www.abc4.com/content/news/top_stories/story/Tainted-water-made-Cedar-Hills-neighborhood-sick/19kK0Bikb0KnKCHGWSEcyQ.csp">http://www.abc4.com/content/news/top_stories/story/Tainted-water-made-Cedar-Hills-neighborhood-sick/19kK0Bikb0KnKCHGWSEcyQ.csp</a>
Private contractor mistakenly hooked up an incorrect pipe to another hook up.	Lake Perry, Miss.	Thursday, September 6, 2012	Residential	<a href="http://www.perryvillenews.com/latest_news/article_b8ca5e5a-fdb5-11e1-ba2f-0019bb30f31a.html">http://www.perryvillenews.com/latest_news/article_b8ca5e5a-fdb5-11e1-ba2f-0019bb30f31a.html</a>
As many as 80 residents got sick over Memorial Day weekend, due to a nasty bacteria that got into the drinking water.	Boise, Idaho	Friday, June 8, 2012	Residential	<a href="http://boisestatepublicradio.org/post/boise-residents-sickened-bad-water-not-satisfied-companys-response">http://boisestatepublicradio.org/post/boise-residents-sickened-bad-water-not-satisfied-companys-response</a>
Andrea Mock reports a personal story of how her family home's water was contaminated.	Columbia, SC	Thursday, November 3, 2011	Residential / Irrigation	<a href="http://www.wltx.com/video/default.aspx?bctid=1257392162001">http://www.wltx.com/video/default.aspx?bctid=1257392162001</a>

- AWWA M14
- Page 1 of 3, 2005 – 2012
- 8/20 (40%)

# Risks of Backflow

Residential

## BackflowCases.com

### Officials: Water OK to use, drink in Neville Township

Officials in Neville Township, Allegheny County, have issued a warning to residents to not drink their water due to a backflow in the water system of approximately 2,000 gallons.

Officials said the content of the backflow was determined to originate from a fire suppression system.

The "Do Not Use Notice" has been lifted, but a "Do Not Drink Notice" is now in effect.

Bathing, hand washing, making ice, brushing teeth and washing dishes is not prohibited.

Water will be available at the Neville Island Fire Department on Grand Avenue.

Officials also said not to boil, freeze or filter the water since the content of the backflow is currently unknown.

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#### Pages

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- ▶ [2017 \(5\)](#)
- ▶ [2015 \(9\)](#)
- ▶ [2014 \(2\)](#)
- ▶ [2013 \(3\)](#)
- ▶ [2012 \(10\)](#)
- ▶ [2011 \(23\)](#)

#### What is Backflow?

- ["Protecting the Safe Water Standard" - Watts Water](#)

# Roles

- State Government
  - EGLE
  - Plumbing Division of LARA
- Local Water Utility
  - Cross connection Inspector
- Backflow Tester
- Resident

# Legal Basis

## SAFE DRINKING WATER ACT Act 399 of 1976

### 325.1001a Legislative intent; water resources research institutes.

Sec. 1a. It is the intent of the legislature to provide adequate water resources research institutes and other facilities within the state of Michigan so that the state may assure the long-term health of its public water supplies and other vital natural resources.

### R 325.11403 Cross-connections prohibited.

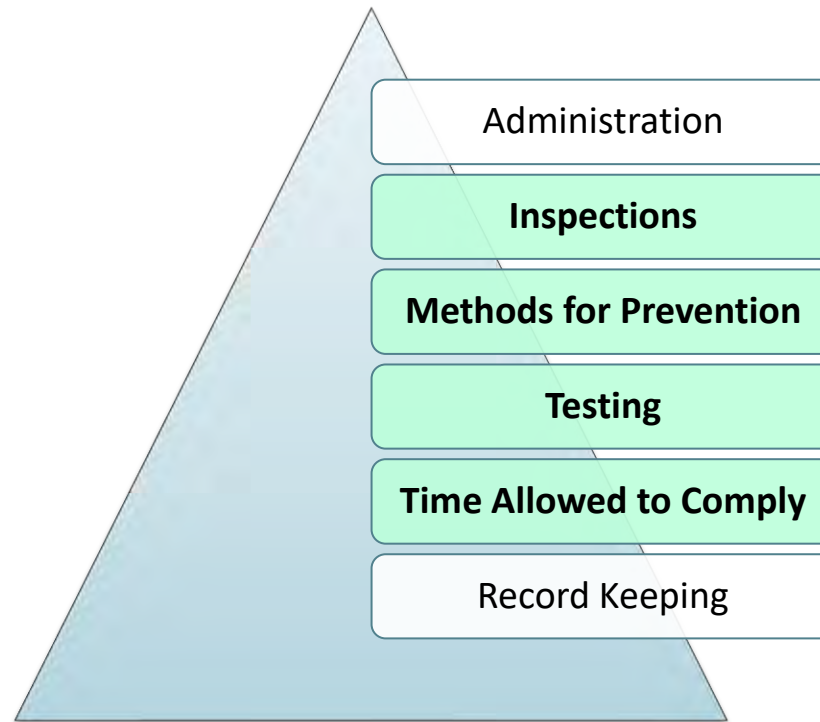
Rule 1403. (1) A temporary or permanent unprotected cross connection between a public water supply system and any source, piping, or system that may contain nonpotable water or other substances is prohibited.

(2) Subrule (1) of this rule applies to all customer types, such as, industrial, commercial, institutional, governmental, and single and multi-unit residential.

(3) Piping configurations creating the potential for water from a public distribution system to flow through a private water main or customer site piping and back into the public system are prohibited. Areas of private water main served by two or more service connections, where flow through the private system can re-enter the public system shall

Part 14

# Cross Connection Program – Water Supplier



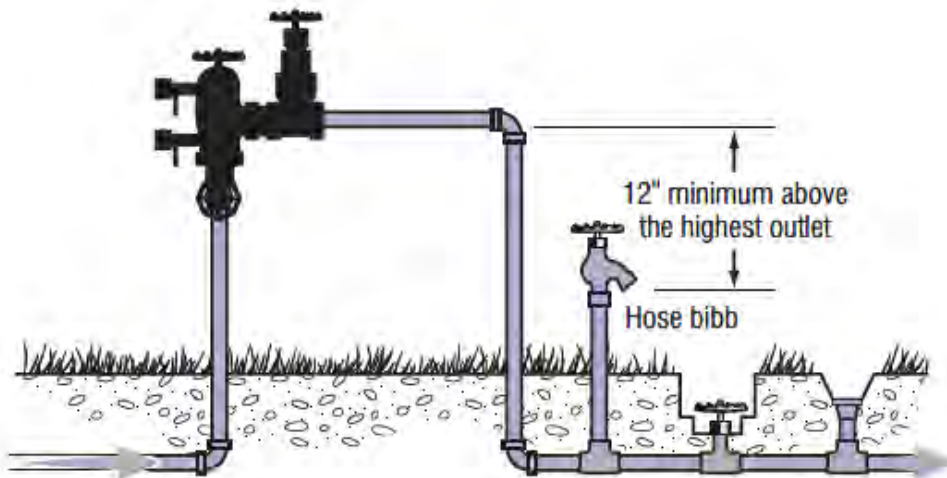
# Onsite Inspections

- Exterior is important
- Interior can be focused on basement



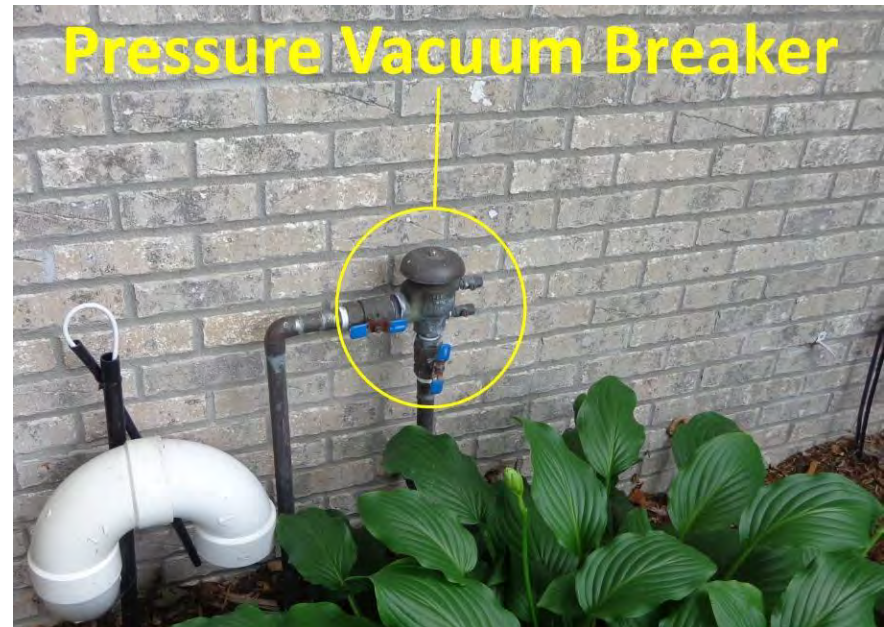


## The Risk: Your Lawn



## The Fix:

### Pressure Vacuum Breaker



# Reward

- Reduce the Risk
- Increased prevention of backflow
- Confidence in your water quality





# Open Discussion & Updates from Ambassadors



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