

## CROSS CONNECTION CONTROL

### Backflow Preventer Testing Requirements within the City of Novi

Cross Connection Control within the City is administered by the Water & Sewer Division. Administration is through the Authority of the Michigan Department of Environment Quality (MDEQ) Safe Drinking Water Act P.A. 399, Part 14 Cross Connection Rules, City Cross Connection Control Program (CCCP) and the City of Novi Code of Ordinances; Article II Water Supply Systems, Division 2 Cross Connections, Sec. 34-36 through 34-43 and more specifically Sec. 34-37 & 34-42 for testing.

Administration of these rules is NOT through the State Construction Code Act P.A. 230.

**Testing of backflow preventers within the City of Novi has three components to it that includes the following:**

- 1. Testers must possess a current ASSE 5110 Certification as required in the State Part 14 Cross Connection Rules and Safe Drinking Water Act P.A. 399.**
- 2. Testers must be a licensed plumbing contractor as required by the City's CCCP submitted to and approved by the MDEQ and City of Novi Code of Ordinances.**
- 3. Testers must record results on the City of Novi test report form that can be found at [cityofnovi.org](http://cityofnovi.org) as required by the City CCCP and City code of ordinances.**

It should be noted that the City's backflow testing requirements are based upon the City as a whole that includes residential, commercial and industrial.

The City's test report form is based upon ASSE 5000 Cross-Connection Control Professional Qualifications Standard required information on a test report form with a couple additional requirements or comments revolving around required permits, new installations and main drain tests on fire sprinkler systems.

We frequently get questions as to why a plumbing license is required if an individual is in possession of an ASSE 5110 Certification to test.

There are several reasons as to why the Water & Sewer Division added this requirement locally for our community, the reasons are indicated below;

- ASSE Certified testers that are not licensed plumbing contractors under the general State requirements can test, however they are not authorized to make repairs or installations. As such, if our residential or commercial water users hire a non-licensed plumber to perform the test and it failed, they would be required by State law to hire a licensed plumber to make repairs. In our opinion this would be unreasonable and inconvenient to our water users as a whole in addition to adding potential unnecessary costs for such testing.
- Under the State General requirements for testing, possession of an ASSE 5110 Certification is all that is required to test. With that said, lawn irrigation contractors and others who do not possess the skills needed to perform testing on fire sprinkler systems would be permitted to test. We do not agree that this scenario is in the best interests of the water user.

Please feel free to contact the City Water & Sewer Division with any other questions you may have at 248-735-5661.

