

WSSC's CCP History continued

- Plans Review and Inspection Staff did an excellent job of ensuring proper protection at the time of new construction; but what about follow-up?
- Late 90's, State recognizes importance by regulating that Cross Connection Technicians Certifications are a prerequisite to Journeyman and Master Plumber Licenses.
- In early 00's, WSSC was forced to focus resources on Sanitary Sewer Overflows
- Frustrations boil over: "Why are *they* more concerned with Crisco in the sewer, than with Cyanide in the Water?"



How do you contaminate the drinking water? Actually, it's very easy:

Elementary Level Physics!!!



Really? No Protection?



How Long Can You Avoid the Obvious?

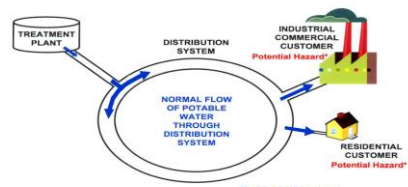


Its Time to Take Another Stand

- ▶ This is about where we come into picture.
- ▶ WSSC is Under Sweeping Changes
- ▶ New Mid-level Management seems receptive to enhancing the CCP
- ▶ With mid-management in support, we set out to impress backflow fundamentals to our senior management and clarify the *risks of non-action*.
- ▶ We enhanced and presented the next four slides:



Normal Water Flow

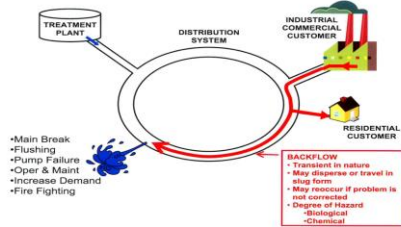


Residential Customers
 • 65% of total water used
 • 20% of which is not ingested (irrigation, toilet flushing, etc.)

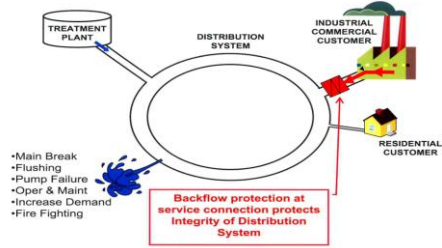
*Hazard assessment required to determine the actual risk to public health from individual connections



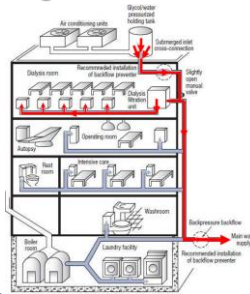
Backflow



Backflow Prevention



One Example of a Tragic Incident



- A cross-connection incident occurred in a Medical Center in Illinois
- Ethylene glycol, an anti-freeze added to air conditioning cooling tower water, entered the potable water supply system via a manually-operated valve that was intentionally left partially open
- No Backflow Prevention Assembly was present
- Two of six dialysis patients died as a direct or indirect result of the contamination



What Also Got Their Attention

- ▶ Federal and State Mandated
- ▶ Gross Negligence = Liability
- ▶ Benchmarking
- ▶ Self Funded, Phased-in Approach
- ▶ Our new GM lived through a significant backflow event in his former jurisdiction



What? It has an AVB!

