

# **HELP US PROTECT YOUR WATER!**

## **This is a notice for customers with LAWN SPRINKLER SYSTEMS, AUTOMATIC FILLING DEVICES, WATER TROUGHS, FARM EQUIPMENT and other potential hazards.**

The production and delivery of safe water is the highest priority for LSUD. After potable water has been produced, precautions must be taken to insure that it is not contaminated with water, liquids, gases, or corrosive products from external sources. Backflow of contaminated water may enter the public water system through backpressure or backsiphonage. An example of this is a watering hose being submerged inside a watering trough to fill it and there becomes a loss of pressure due to flushing, leak, or a fire. There is a potential that the water in the trough would be pulled into the customers service line or into the water lines of LSUD. Every water user has a responsibility to protect the safety of the water supply.

### **AUTOMATIC FILLING DEVICES:**

Swimming pools, hot tubs, spas, fountains, and fishponds are all where potential risk for backflow exist. For this notice "pool" will be used to refer to all of the above mention. Due to the pool being open to the environment it can become unsanitary or have animal wastes, which is considered a health hazard. Even if the pool is maintained and clean it is still not the same quality as the drinking water. We recommend all outside hose bibs have a vacuum breaker attached to help prevent backflow into the water line. If a pool has an automatic filling device it is still considered a health hazard because of the possibility of backflow from a submerged inlet. All pools receiving piped water from a potable water supply will need to be isolated by a backflow prevention device. Automatic filling devices that have a float valve cannot use a vacuum breaker due to the continuous pressure which makes the vacuum breaker not function correctly. Due to this potential health hazard of the automatic filling devices, a Reduced Pressure Zone Assembly (RPZ) will need to be installed and tested annually. This original test record will need to be submitted to LSUD within 10 days of testing and then annually after that. If there is an automatic filling device, but it is not being used, then the office of LSUD will need to be contacted so someone can come and make sure it is properly disconnected. If you have a pool system and are not sure what is needed or have questions please call and we will have someone come out or help you.

### **WATERING TROUGHS:**

We understand the importance of watering troughs for animal welfare, but they have the potential of being a health hazard and risk to our drinking water. If the filling device for the watering trough is submerged into the water there is a potential for backflow into the water lines. We recommend that the outside hose bibs have a backflow device for example a vacuum breaker or air gap. There is a device that can be hooked to a watering hose or faucet called "Automatic Float Valve" or "Automatic Float Valve Anti-Siphon". The Automatic Float Valve Anti-Siphon has the necessary air gap or vacuum breaker between the fill point and the water, keeping the fill point from being submerged and breaking any siphon which might occur. If a watering trough has one of these it needs to be inspected to make sure it is installed properly where it cannot become submerged due to rain or malfunction.

### **FARM EQUIPMENT AND OTHER POTENTIAL RISKS:**

Filling any farm or spray rig containers the hose or connector is recommended to have a vacuum breaker, air gap, or backflow device if it's submerged for example: filling from the bottom. Contact us if you have questions so we can help you decide on the right device needed and inspection. Another hazard is a siphon sprayer. For example: Miracle Grow and other products can connect to the water

hose and be sprayed out onto the lawn. This is a hazardous cross-connection risk because if there is a loss of pressure the chemicals can be brought back into the water system. So it is recommended to have vacuum breakers to help prevent this from happening.

### **IRRIGATION SYSTEMS:**

All irrigation systems (sprinkler systems) are required to have a backflow device installed and tested upon installation with an original test report on file. Having an on-site sewage facility causes the irrigation system to be a health hazard. Therefore, irrigation systems are required to have an RPZ installed and an annual test report done. If there isn't an RPZ and the backflow test fails then one will need to be installed and tested. We are trying to eliminate potential risks for backflow as required by TCEQ. We will be sending out letters for reminders to get the annual test report completed. We would like to thank everyone who has been so responsive and getting their testing done.

As a public water system and a customer it is important that we all work together to make sure that we protect the water for the homeowner, neighbors, and community. **LSUD appreciates all of the customers who have been so responsive in getting their backflow devices tested, vacuum breakers installed, and all the other ways of eliminating risks of potential contaminations.** Please let us know within 60 days of this day April 1, 2016 to arrange a time frame you can provide the backflow test for the automatic filling devices. Also, let us know about your pool, troughs, and farm equipment so we can verify that there is no potential hazards. Below you will find a list of some of the licensed backflow testers, but can use any tester as long as they have a valid license. Vacuum breakers can be purchased at local hardware stores. If you have any questions or concerns please give us a call and we will be more than happy to assist you. Also, our yearly Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) will be published on our website at [LuellaSUD.org](http://LuellaSUD.org) on July 1, 2016.

LUELLA SPECIAL UTILITY DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
(903)892-9084

### BACKFLOW PREVENTION ASSEMBLY TESTERS:

1. Backflow Solutions  
Donny Adcock  
(903)814-2508
2. DreamWorks Landscaping  
Jon Kinnamon  
(903)821-1211
3. J's Plumbing  
Jason Churchwell  
(903)267-4606
4. Earth Sprinkler Systems  
Arthur McDonald  
(903)989-2427
5. Texoma Landscapes  
Jonathan Castro  
(903)465-5456