

Backflow Inspections – CLARIFICATION

At their last regular meeting (6/19/08), the Quitman City Council passed an ordinance regarding backflow prevention inspections. These annual inspections are required **ONLY FOR CERTAIN CUSTOMERS**; specifically, those customers who are required to have a cross-connection control assembly. These backflow prevention devices prevent the potential contamination of the water system in the event of a pressure loss in the water system. Some examples of customers who might be required to have a cross-connection control assembly, include: hospitals, mortuaries, medical / dental / veterinary clinics, medical labs, commercial car-wash facilities, and **irrigation systems**. ***A regular residential customer would be required to have a backflow prevention device and the associated annual inspection if they have an irrigation system.*** Commercial users should contact the water department if they have questions about how the requirements might apply to their location and business.

For those customers required to have the backflow prevention device and the associated annual inspection, the City can now have the inspection performed and report filed, with the cost billed to your City utility bill, **BUT ONLY AT THE PROPERTY OWNER'S REQUEST**. Otherwise, the property owner would be responsible to have the inspection performed each year by a qualified inspector and file the report with the City.

Customers not in compliance with this requirement could have their service shut-off and/or could be fined up to \$200.00 for each day after a certified letter has been sent notifying them of non-compliance.

Please contact the Utilities Department at City Hall, (903) 763-4045, for additional information or clarification.
