# Gardner Community Water Association, Inc.

# Cross-Connection Control Program and Backflow Policy

Introduction

This Policy addresses the State of Louisiana Sanitary Code (LAC Title 51: XII & Title 17:I) that states a public water system shall have no uncontrolled cross-connections to a pipe, fixture, or supply, any of which contain water not meeting provisions of the drinking water regulations.

A cross-connection is any point in a water distribution system where chemical, biological, or radiological contaminants may come into contact with potable water. During a backflow event, these contaminants can be drawn or pushed back into the potable water system. A backflow prevention device installed at every point of cross-connection prevents contaminated water from entering the potable water distribution system.

Any hazardous cross-connection discovered to be uncontrolled will be corrected within 10 days or the water service will be shut off. The Louisiana Department of Health & Hospitals will be informed of the hazardous connection and the corrective action being taken.

Identification of Potential Cross-Connections

Per LAC Title 51: XII & Title 17:I, the **Gardner Community Water Association** will perform a survey of the public water system through questionnaires and/or onsite inspections to identify potentially hazardous cross-connections, prioritized by degree of hazard. From the date of this adopted policy forward, any new water service installation will be inspected for compliance with these requirements for backflow prevention.

Public Education

The **Gardner Community Water Association** will educate system users about the potential health risk that cross-connections pose, with an emphasis on cross-connections at or within homes and other residences.

Installation of Devices

The **Gardner Community Water Association** will require system users to install and maintain backflow prevention devices on potentially hazardous service connections, as stated in LAC Title 51: XII & Title 17:I. All service connections within the water system must comply with LAC Title 51: XII & Title 17:I.

Each cross-connection may require a different type of backflow prevention device, commensurate with the degree of hazard posed by the cross-connection.

Device Testing

The State Plumbing Code requires that backflow prevention devices be tested upon installation, repaired, when relocated, annually, or as required by the plumbing official or water supplier by a certified backflow prevention technician. A list of certified technicians in our area, their certification numbers, and contact information can be found in the appendices of this policy.

Record Keeping

Testing and maintenance records will be kept for five years.

All service agreements, questionnaires and the latest onsite premises surveys will be kept indefinitely.

Enforcement

To protect public health, water service will be discontinued after reasonable notice to the Customer if a violation of this Policy exists on the premises, and such other precautionary measures may be taken as are deemed necessary to eliminate any danger to the potable water. Water service will be discontinued if the proper backflow prevention assembly is not installed or not tested annually or not repaired when the assembly fails to meet state standards. Water service shall not be restored until the danger had been eliminated in compliance with this Policy.

Properties and /or Entities with the following potential hazards will be required to install a Backflow Device

1. Irrigation System
2. Fire Suppression/Sprinkler System
3. Auxiliary Water Supply
4. Sewage Pumping Stations
5. Portable Dialysis Machine or Other Medical Equipment
6. Boat Dock/House with Water Supply
7. Livestock or Animal Watering Trough
8. Inground Swimming Pool / Hot Tub
9. Greenhouses
10. Decorative Ponds / Fountains
11. Photo Lab or Dark Room
12. Homebased Businesses (Beauty Salon, Machine Shop, Etc.)
13. Fire Trucks / Hydrants / Water Filling Stations
14. Commercial Food Prep/Kitchens
15. Commercial Property with Three or More Connections (campground/RV hookups)
16. Baptistries with Below Water Level Fill
17. Any Potential Hazard That Poses a Risk Determined by the Water Operator

\*\*Above ground pools must have a hose bib vacuum breaker, or an air gap verified by operator of Gardner Community Water Association.

\*\* All Residential customers are to have a hose bib vacuum breaker installed on all outside faucets of the residence and outer buildings on property.