

# The Direct Connection



A newsletter dedicated to Cross Connection Control and Backflow Prevention  
February 2003 Vol. 13 Issue 2

## Meeting Location Has Changed

Due to security reasons, SAWS has requested our training building be moved to another location. Bexar Met Water District has offered their location at 2047 W. Malone. ABPA needs to decide what is best for them and will be discussed at the meeting along with other possible options. A sign will be posted at 615 E. Theo directing people to go to 2047 W. Malone. Be sure and sign in and have ID with you for security at the site. **Thanks for your help in making this a smooth transition.**

## CO Could Spell DEATH

What if you knew a killer was stalking your home? A silent, deadly killer that could steal away your family's lives without warning. Wouldn't you do something about it?

That can be the case with carbon monoxide poisoning. Carbon monoxide is an odorless, tasteless, colorless gas produced by the incomplete combustion of carbon based fuels such as natural gas, fuel oil, charcoal, or wood. It can be emitted by any improperly installed or poorly maintained combustion source such as unvented kerosene or gas space heater, furnaces, wood stoves, gas stoves, fireplaces, or gas water heaters. Carbon Monoxide can escape into your home anytime during the year.

### The Health Effects of Carbon Monoxide

Carbon monoxide interferes with the proper delivery of oxygen in the blood to the rest of the body. When you inhale high concentrations of the potentially deadly gas, it can displace the oxygen in your bloodstream and cause one or more of the following symptoms:

Poor Coordination	Confusion and Disorientation
Fatigue	Nausea
Headache	Dizziness
Weakness	

If the concentration is high enough and the exposure is long enough—it can even lead to death. Approximately 1,000 people die each year as a result of carbon monoxide poisoning.

### A Little Prevention Goes a Long Way

There are a few simple precautions that can be taken to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning.

- Make sure that all combustion appliances (fireplace, stove, gas water heater, furnace, etc.) are (1) installed according to the manufacturer's specifications and (2) properly adjusted and maintained.
- Have a trained technician inspect all combustion sources on an annual basis.
- Confirm that all combustion sources are properly vented and that your furnace has an adequate supply of outside (combustion) air.
- Open flues when using either a wood-burning or natural gas fireplace.

*Cont'd on Page 5*

## February Meeting Details

Meetings of the San Antonio Chapter ABPA are usually held the second Thursday of every month. Dinner and refreshments are served at 6:15 p.m. sharp with the meeting at 7:00 p.m. the entry gates to the service center will be monitored by security. The meeting will start promptly at 6:30p.m. The next meeting is:

Date: Thursday, February 13, 2003  
Time: 6:15 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.  
Location: **Bexar Met Water District**  
**2047 W. Malone**  
Program: **Flomatic**  
Meal: Provided by **ABPA-SA and Flomatic**  
*No alcoholic beverages allowed by  
Bexar Met Water District policy*

### *Futue Meetings:*

*March: John Deere Landscape*

*April: TCEQ*

## Backflow Happens

*Ron Renouf, President, ABPA*  
*ronrenouf@earthlink.net*

If all good things come from small beginnings, the rest of our meetings this year ought to go just great. It appears we weren't quite successful in getting out the word on where the meeting would be held. I hope we have better luck with the February meeting at the Bexar Metropolitan Water District on West Malone.

We have submitted a package to Kelly USA outlining our requirements and desires for meeting space at that location. The documentation which they had requested was also provided. We have not recieved a reply as of 21 January. We need to be sure we have a secure situation before we move the training building. Saws has been very understanding of our plight and has not threatened to evict us. Backflow happens.

### Backflow Trivia

When did the TCEQ start the Customer service inspection requirements for the state?  
Answer on page 5

### SAWS Contact for Recycle Water Program

**Frank Snyder**

Office: 704-1236

Pager: 603-0067

Cell: 416-3003

## Big Thanks

***TO: Morrison Supply for a great presentation!!!!***

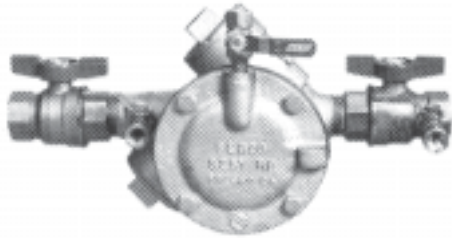
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Published by the ABPA-Region IV,  
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Assistant Editor: Robert Stricker.  
Layout, Publishing & Circulation:  
Alamo Iron Works-Fernando Galdeano

For further information about ABPA,  
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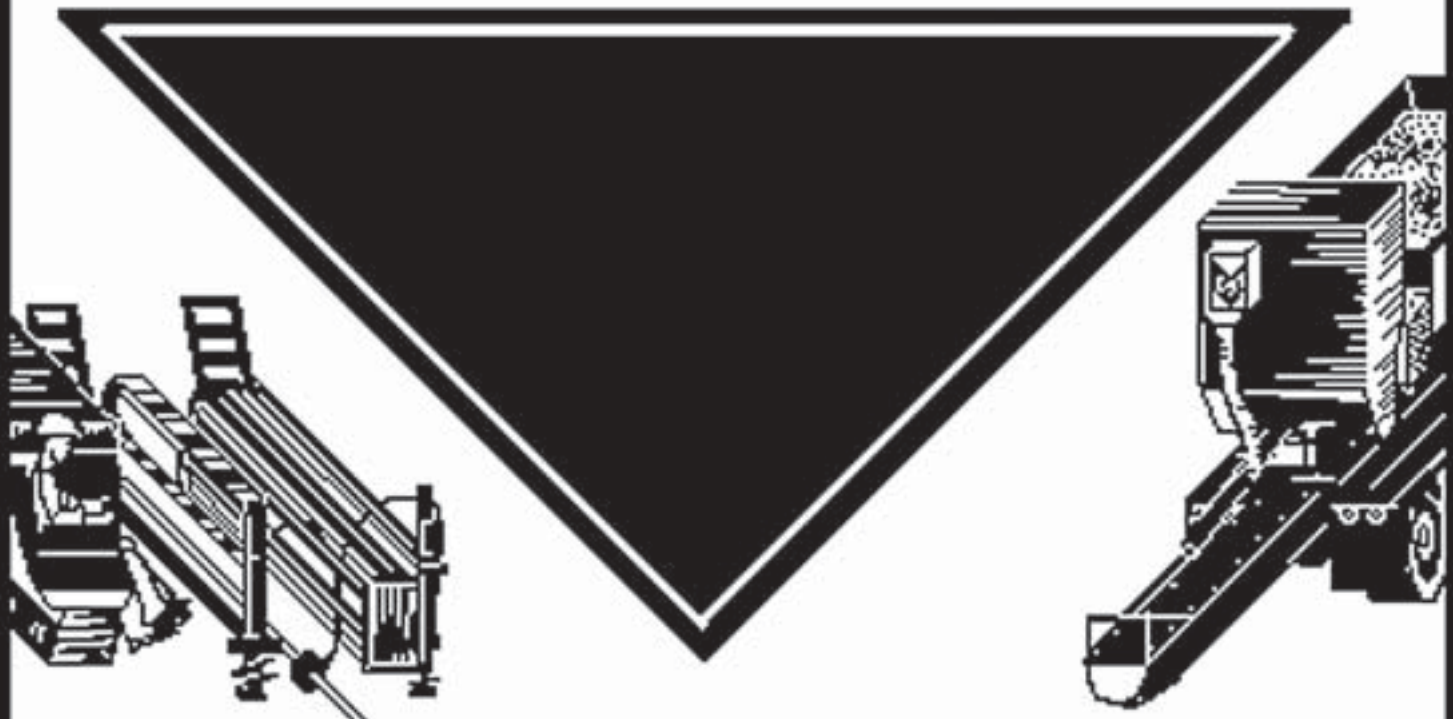


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**DEATH...** *Cont'd from Page 1*

- Always use the proper fuel in a combustion device.
- Do not use ovens or gas stoves to heat your home.
- Never burn charcoal inside a home, cabin, recreational vehicle, or any other enclosed place.
- Do not leave a motor vehicle or gasoline-powered lawn mower running in enclosed spaces such as a garage or shed.

**First Aid for Carbon Monoxide Exposure**

1. Get fresh air immediately! Open a door or a window. If you can, turn off the combustion device and get outside!
2. Seek emergency medical care. Be sure and tell the physician that you suspect carbon monoxide poisoning.

**Carbon Monoxide Detectors—A Good Investment?**

Small wall or ceiling-mounted carbon monoxide detectors can be useful and part of an overall home safety program. But keep in mind the following:

1. Most of today's home-use carbon monoxide detectors aren't as technologically reliable as smoke detectors, and
2. The installation and use of carbon monoxide detectors is no substitute for the proper use and maintenance of combustion devices in the home.

If you do purchase a commercially available carbon monoxide detector, make sure that it meets Underwriters Laboratories Inc. ("UL") standards. As is the case with smoke detectors, carbon monoxide detectors should be installed close to sleeping areas.

***Remember Only you can keep you and your family safe! Do it Now and Do it Right!***

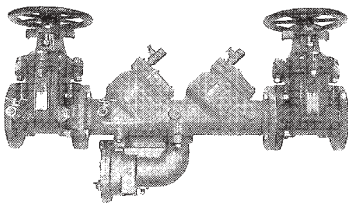
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**Backflow Trivia Answer:**  
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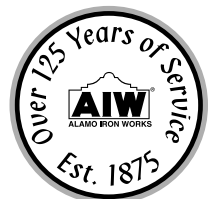


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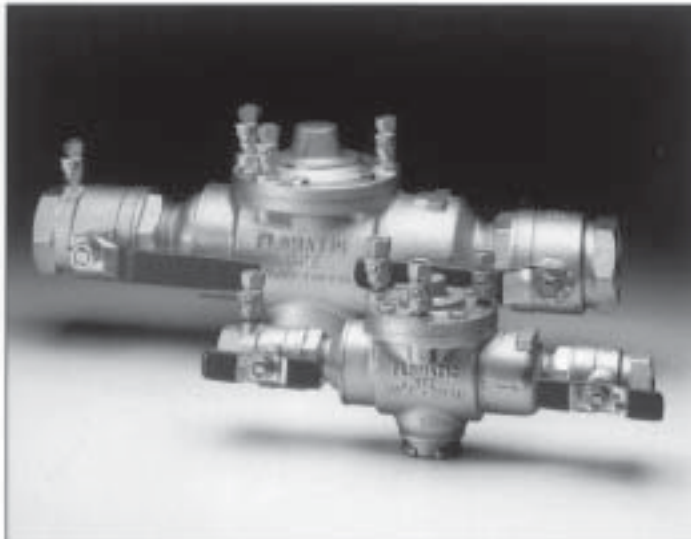
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# SAFETY TIP

Do you realize that attitudes your attitudes can, and generally do, determine whether you will be safe and healthy or unsafe and injured? What is your attitude about safety? Do you believe in it enough to act safely all the time? Or, do you just pay lip service to the idea without using it yourself? Let's see if your thinking about safety is constructive and sound or negative and insecure.

What is an attitude? The dictionary says it's a feeling a point of view based on a strongly held conviction. It's the way an individual or a group of people think and believe a habit of thinking that often leads to a fixed way of acting.

Attitudes can be good, bad, strong, or weak; and, they can change. Good safety attitudes lead to good safety behavior like wearing eye protection all the time whether the immediate situation demands it or not.

There are good attitudes toward safety, and there are bad attitudes. Have you heard the excuse, "The law of averages caught up with me" after an accident or injury? How many of the following expressions of unsafe attitudes sound familiar to you?

*Trust me, I know what I'm doing.*

*It slows me down.*

*Accidents just happen.*

*It can't happen to me.*

*Don't tell me what to do.*

*Safety is sissy stuff.*

*I've been doing it that way for years.*

What causes these unsafe attitudes? Take the worker who won't listen to instruction or follow directions. Maybe he or she is a chip on the shoulder person who resents all authority. Maybe he or she simply lives in his or her own world and to heck with everybody else.

The trouble with unsafe attitudes is that they can lead to dangerous acts. Some people seem to think they can ignore safety rules whenever it's not convenient to obey them. Maybe they are trying to prove that the rules don't apply to them because they're tough. Well, nobody is that tough!

Chance taking is usually caused by unsafe attitudes. Life isn't a wheel of chance. You may think you're quicker, smarter, or luckier than others are and clever enough to beat the odds. But, real winners are people who refuse to take unnecessary risks.

Your daily emotions can affect your attitudes. Don't let your troubles interfere with your thinking on the job, possibly resulting in injuries to you and to others. Emotions cannot be eliminated, and life wouldn't be much fun without them; however, they must be controlled and understood.

We must understand one another if we are to work safely. It's a two-way proposition. Attitudes can be shaped through good communications. Safety considerations are necessary in every company.

Knowing your job also strengthens safe attitudes. If you are in doubt, consult your supervisor for job safety follow-through. It's their responsibility to help you.

Attitudes can influence behavior. Unsafe attitudes lead to unsafe acts that cause accidents. Unsafe attitudes can be changed to safe attitudes. By developing safe attitudes, you have everything to gain.

What is Your Safety Attitude? Many people tend to ignore safety advice until an accident happens to them or someone that they know. The Behavior-Based, Employee-Driven Safety Program (ESP) offers these five steps to help you develop a good safety attitude thus insuring safe behavior both on and off the job:

**Focus...**Concentrate on your present task. If you are tired, bored, or distracted, you may slip up and cause or have an accident.

**Time...**Take time and do the job correctly. Take time to put on safety equipment. Manage your time well. Make a list that arranges tasks by priority and do them in order. You'll be less likely to rush if you know you're getting your important work done first.

**Strength...**Strength is not always physical; sometimes it's mental or emotional. Don't be pressured to take shortcuts or forget safety. Be strong enough to resist peer pressure and do the right thing.

**Responsibility...**Think of yourself as a team member and take responsibility even if a certain task isn't your job. Even if it's not your responsibility, clean up that broken glass or harmful substance before someone gets hurt.

**Risk...**Be smart and avoid risks whenever you can. Weigh the risks every time you do a job in a certain way, and even if the risk of injury is small.

## **DON T TAKE CHANCES.**

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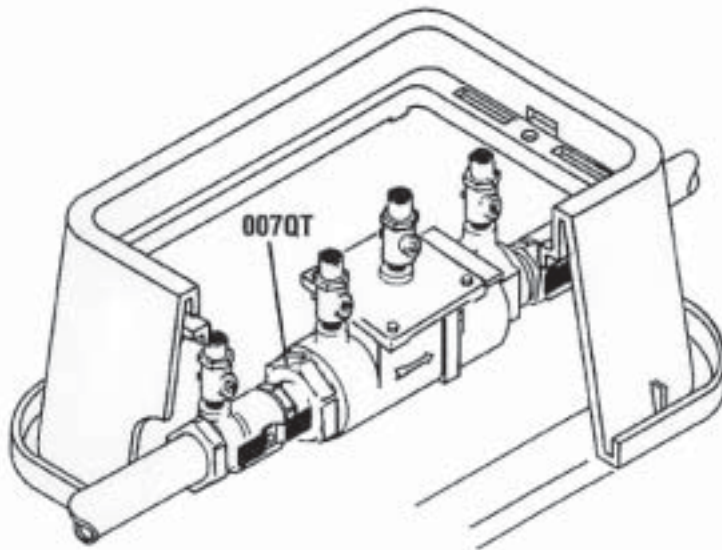
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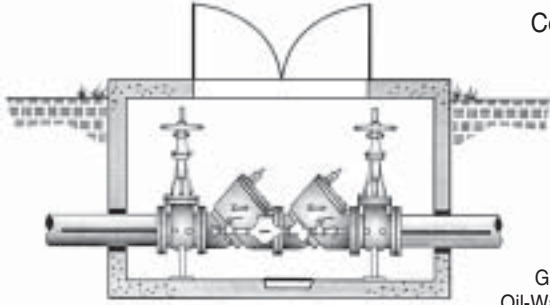
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Revised 8/24/02

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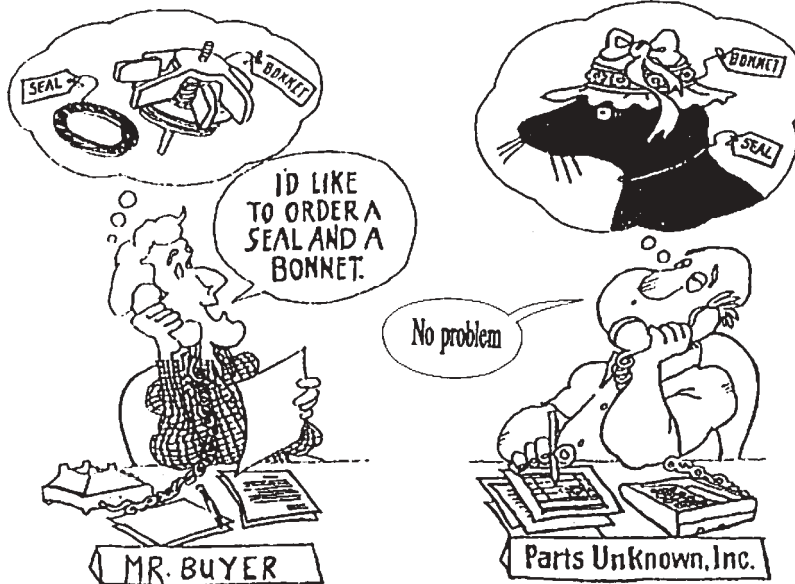
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