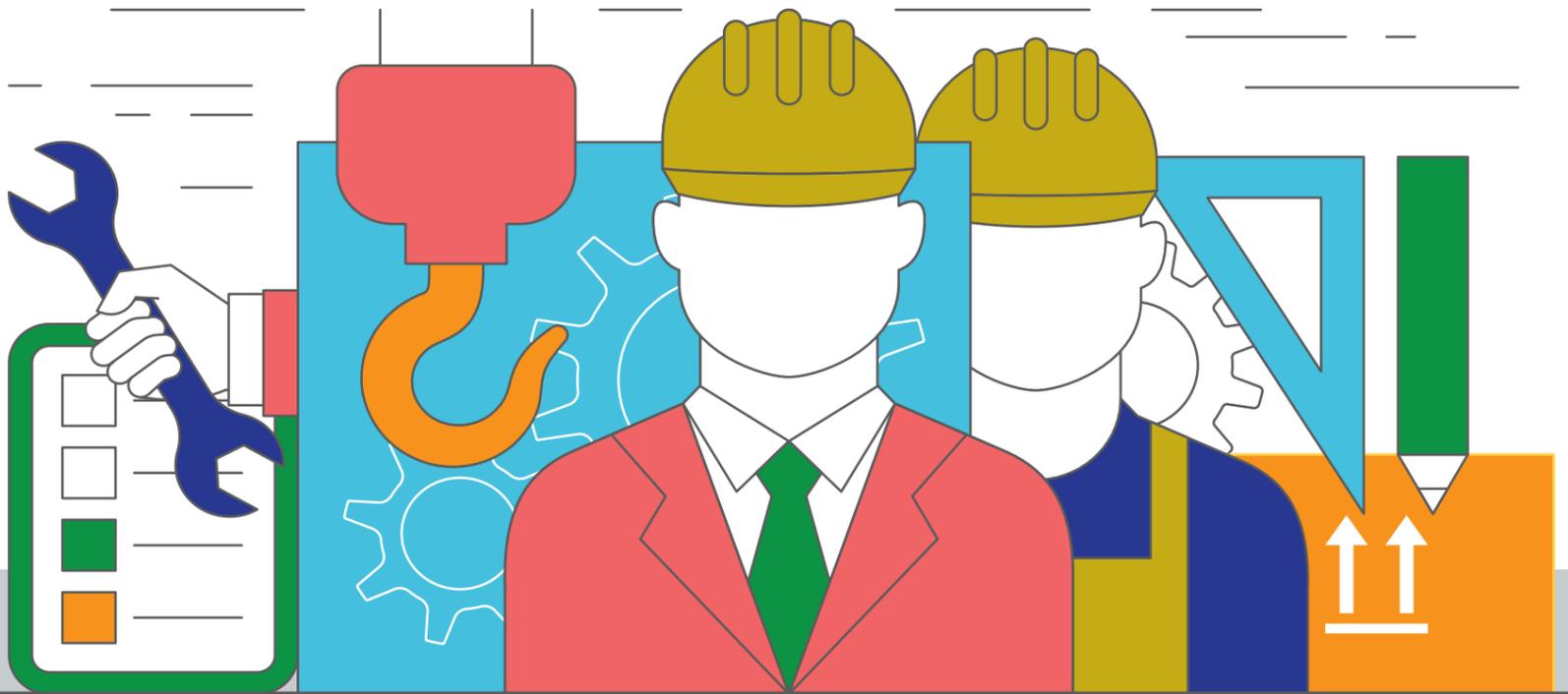


LOST IN THE VAULT



WHEN THERE'S KNOWN RISK IS IT REALLY "BEST PRACTICE"?

Foundation for Cross-Connection Control and Hydraulic Research
a Division of the University of Southern California

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Cross Talk

Spring 2014

Installing a backflow prevention assembly is essential to maintaining an effective cross-connection control program. It is vital that all administrators be aware of the installation requirements for any backflow preventer. Depending upon the jurisdiction, there may be a number of various requirements, although

there are general guidelines that all jurisdictions should consider.

The Manual of Cross-Connection Control, 6th Edition has a list of installation and maintenance guidelines that include illustrations that may be useful in

Installation Guidelines

THE BOTTOM LINE

"When a backflow preventer is installed below grade, the vault or pit in which an assembly is installed may fill up with water ...The water in the pit could create a cross-connection between the water in the pit and the backflow preventer through the test cocks. **This may occur whether the test cocks are open or closed.**" - USC FCCCHR, *Cross Talk*, Spring 2014

TAKING A RISK

Cross connections lead to backflow. Backflow leads to contaminated drinking water. Contaminated drinking water leads to sickness and death.

Over the last two years Corpus Christi has had **4 contaminated drinking water events**. Mismanagement of the water system has unacceptable consequences.

WHAT'S THE REALITY?

When the test cocks are under water a potential cross connection is created. Respected voice in the industry - USC FCCCHR has written guidance urging against placing backflow preventers in vaults **THREE TIMES**.

THIS IS NOT SAFE

Flood water includes things such as fertilizers, animal waste and transmits many diseases including cholera and giardia. **3.4 MILLION deaths** annually from water related diseases globally. In the United States about 800 deaths are related to norovirus and 7,900 are related to Clostridium difficile each year. **These are only two of many types of water borne disease.**

CHANGE IS OK

Do you still use floppy disks, VHS or cassette tapes? How many people do you know that still have a corded home phone? When was the last time you drafted plans by hand instead of using AUTOCad? It's ok that these once important skills and objects are no longer necessary. Things change, people learn, and we improve. **Let's improve on the vault.**

THE SOLUTION

Install the backflow preventer above ground in an ASSE 1060 approved enclosure. **Don't render the backflow device useless by creating a cross connection at it.** Keep it above ground and safe from everyday flooding. Hide them with colors and landscaping to address any aesthetic concerns. Visit www.safe-t-cover.com for ASSE 1060 enclosure information.