



SEPTEMBER 2023 NEWSLETTER

The Group
P.O. Box 75223
Seattle, WA 98175
www.backflowgroup.org

OFFICERS

Chair: Jeff Kobylk Jeff.kobylk@edmondswa.gov	City of Edmonds	425 771 0235
Vice Chair: Wednesday Smith batgirlbackflowtesting@gmail.com	Batgirl Backflow Testing	206 948 0484
Treasurer: Dennis McLaughlin d.p.mclaughlin@outlook.com	BAT-Retired	206 364 9643
Secretary: Kathy Caldwell caldwell@snohomishwa.gov thegroup2021@outlook.com	City of Snohomish	360 282 3165
Past Chair: Mick Holte mholte@rentonwa.gov	City of Renton	425 430 7207
Webmaster: Paul Molisani paul@ecosconnect.com	EcosConnect	503 830 0171

Hello everyone,

The Group held a virtual meeting on September 20th. The topic for the month was Authority Having Jurisdiction. Those in attendance were Vice Chair Wednesday Smith, Secretary Kathy Caldwell, Webmaster Paul Molisani, Brett Baker-City of Bothell, Scotto Barr and Josh Nicholas-City of Monroe, Mike Lee-City of Bellingham, Courtney Shilling-Skagit County PUD, Daniel Snell-City of Issaquah, Candida Granillo-Dodds-DOH, Carla Snyder-Coal Creek Water and Sewer, Gabriel Olivas-WA State DOT, Tim Cantwell and DeLynn Erickson-Woodinville Water District, Certified Backflow, and guest speaker Eric Carter-City of Edmonds.

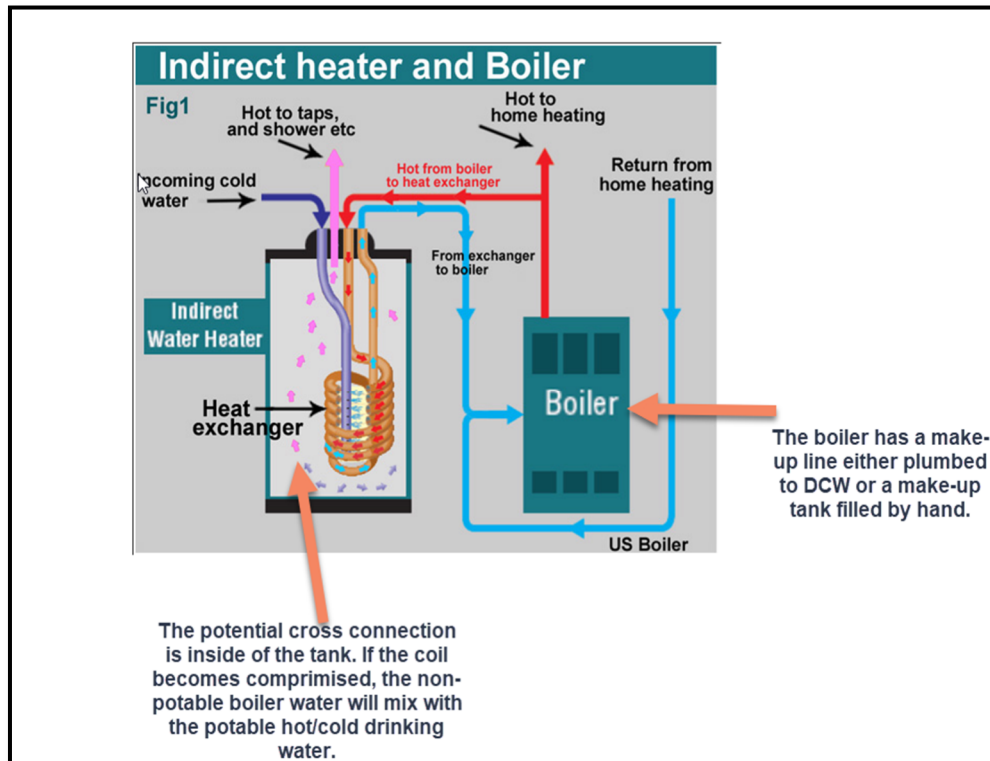
Eric, who works with Chair Jeff Kobylk (not present) is the Building Official for Edmonds. He's been their qualified inspector for the last eight years. He spoke of the best-case scenario of the AHJ and the CCS working in harmony. However, many of us know that is not always the case!

Members shared their positive and negative experiences and there were a lot of good ideas on how to go about correcting issues. Eric made some great points and suggestions using his experiences on both sides. He highly recommends above all to reach out in person and discuss each other's responsibilities. Avoid email and text when possible.

We discussed the legalities and potential problems when we adopt the combination program requiring both premise isolation and/or in premise equipment protection. We may be asking ourselves to hold more responsibility than necessary. WAC 246.290.490 requires us only to premise isolate to protect the public water system. Even with this code solidly in place, many CCSs feel the responsibility to protect the drinking water inside the buildings is a critical part of providing safe drinking water. Technically, the internal portion of assemblies is the responsibility of the AHJ.

Daniel asked the Group if anyone had seen a new indirect fired heat tank that he feels is or has the potential for cross connection. He is not sure how to deal with this equipment and would appreciate anyone's input that understand how these work and if, in fact, they are a hazard. Please reach out to him if you've dealt with these. daniels@issaquahwa.gov

Below is a quick diagram of how an indirect-fired water heater is plumbed typically. It's very hard to explain without a picture or being onsite looking at one. The potential cross connection is inside of the tank, so we can't figure out an acceptable way to protect from it. When I asked a mechanical contractor how they would know if the integrity of the coil inside was compromised, he stated there is a TP valve that would leak because of the pressure difference. As we all know, TP valves fail, and they aren't a testable means of backflow protection anyways. I'll add some snips of the UPC regarding these types of installations as well. Let me know if you have any more questions or any possible solutions.



505.4.1 Single-Wall Heat Exchanger: An indirect-fired water heater that incorporates a single-wall heat exchanger shall be in accordance with the following requirements:

- (1) The heat transfer medium shall be either potable water or contain fluids recognized as safe by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) as food grade.
- (2) Bear a label with the word "Caution", followed by the following statements:
 - (a) The heat-transfer medium shall be potable water or other nontoxic fluid recognized as safe by the FDA
 - (b) The maximum operating pressure of the heat exchanger shall not exceed the maximum operating pressure of the potable water supply.

603.5.4 Heat Exchangers. Heat exchangers used for heat transfer, heat recovery, or solar **heating** shall protect the potable water system from being contaminated by the heat-transfer medium. Single-wall heat exchangers used in indirect-fired water heaters shall meet the requirements of Section 505.4.1. Double-wall heat exchangers shall separate the potable water from the heat-transfer medium by providing a space between the two walls that are vented to atmosphere.

That's about it. Don't forget to register for the Seminar next month space is filling up fast this year! Registration Attached.

Kathy Caldwell, Secretary