Backflow Prevention Assembly Testers Course HELENA January 5-10, 2026

Course Instructor:

Curtis Hester is retired from the United States Air Force. As a civilian, he served as the plumbing shop foreman at Malmstrom Air Force Base in Great Falls. Curtis was a certified tester and backflow manager at Malmstrom AFB for over 25 years.

Course Description:

A series of lectures followed by guided exercises in a wet lab will provide understanding of field testing methods on 4 backflow prevention assemblies: pressure vacuum breakers, spill resistant vacuum breakers, reduced pressure principle assemblies, and double check assemblies. Students will gain knowledge in hydraulics, backflow and backsiphonage, types of cross connections, and degrees of hazard and state and federal regulations. Friday afternoon participants can take a written exam and on Saturday morning can take a practical exam administered by the American Backflow Prevention Association (ABPA). Passing scores on both the exams will result in certification by ABPA as a backflow prevention assembly tester. For more information on ABPA see the back of this training announcement or go to their website www.abpa.org.

ABPA Certification Program:

The American Backflow Prevention Association's Certification Program, recognized by the state of Montana, assists the administrative authority in assuring that backflow prevention assembly testers are receiving proper training and can demonstrate their understanding of that training in a validated examination process. When a tester successfully completes a written and practical exam ABPA awards a certificate. Testers can present the certificate to employers to demonstrate their understanding of backflow prevention and cross-connection control and the ability to perform a field test of a backflow prevention assembly.

Montana Rural Water Systems, Inc

Presents

Backflow Prevention Assembly Testers Course HELENA January 5-10, 2026

Water & Wastewater utility operators and managers; plumbers; fire fighting personal, and others interested in backflow testing are invited.

Backflow Prevention Assembly Testers Course

Helena Wastewater Maintenance Building

January 5 - 10, 2026

WHERE: Helena Wastewater Maintenance

2218 E Custer Ave, Helena, MT 59602 (Across from Costco)

COURSE FEES: $925 by December 15, 2025 (Jan 5-10 w./class materials) **New Certs-Full Course & Manuals**
$425 by December 15, 2025 (Jan 7-10) **Recerts Only - No Manuals**
$250 by December 15, 2025 (Jan 5-7 w/class materials) **For Information Seekers Only**
$ 50 by December 15, 2025 (Jan 9 use of wet lab) **Recerts wishing only to take the exam**

REGISTRATION CLOSES December 15, 2025 — NO EXCEPTIONS

SPACE IS LIMITED TO 15 PEOPLE — REGISTER FAST!!

EXAM FEE: Register online with ABPA and pay the exam fee ($300) by December 15th, 2025. Go to: **https://www.abpa.org** to register. Click on the word "more" to the right of the word *Calendar* on the right side of the home page. Click on Billings. The screen login appears. ABPA members sign in. If you are not an ABPA member click on Continue as Guest. Complete the registration form and pay.

CECs: up to 3.6 for water & wastewater operators

COURSE MATERIALS: ***Course materials will be mailed upon receipt of payment***. The USC FCCCHR Manual of Cross-Connection Control 10th Edition and the Montana Backflow Prevention Assembly Testers Manual are used for this course. **Those recertifying should already have these manuals and must bring them to class.** If you no longer have these manuals the fee is $100 for a set.

DAY 1: **Monday, January 5, 2026**
9:00 am Registration
9:30 am - 4:30pm
- Lecture
- Status of State Program
- Responsibility, Liability, and Authority for Prevention
- Hydraulics & Test Kits
- Connections & Unapproved Devices
- Special Application Devices
- Cross Connection Control

DAY 2: **Tuesday, January 6, 2026**
8:00 am -4:30pm
- Reduced Pressure Principle Assemblies (RP)
- Double Check Assemblies (DC)
- Associated Hydraulics & Maintenance & Repair
- Lab/Diagnostics/Troubleshooting

DAY 3: **Wednesday, January 7, 2026**
8:00 am - 4:30pm
- Pressure Vacuum Breakers (PVB)
- Spill Resistant Vacuum Breakers (SVB)
- Atmospheric Vacuum Breakers (AVB)
- Associated Hydraulics & Maintenance & Repair
- Lab/Diagnostics/Troubleshooting

DAY 4: **Thursday, January 8, 2026**
8:00 am - 4:30pm
- Reduced Pressure Principle Assemblies (RP)
- Double Check Assemblies (DC)
- Pressure Vacuum Breakers (PVB)
- Spill Resistant Vacuum Breakers (SVB)
- Lab/Diagnostics/Troubleshooting
- Practice Exam

DAY 5: **Friday, January 9, 2026**
8:00 am - Noon
- Lecture Review & Lab Testing

1:00 - 5:00 PM
- ABPA Written Exam only for New and Recerts

DAY 6: **Saturday, January 10, 2026**

8:00 am
ABPA Practical Exam Only for New and Recerts

REGISTRATION FORM

PREREGISTRATION: Pre-registration is **absolutely necessary! Complete this form and return it along with your course payment BY December 15, 2025**. Space will be forfeited if payment is not received prior to the training.
Space is limited to 15 people!!
Registration closes December 15, 2025.

A canceled registration after December 15, 2025 will be refunded at 50%. Please call MRWS at *(406) 454-1151* for more information.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

ST _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____

EMPLOYER _____

EMAIL _____

[ ] New Certification [ ] Recertifying

Indicate Amount & Method of Payment

Amount $ _____

[ ] Check # _____

[ ] PO # _____

Credit Card: [ ] Master Card or [ ] Visa

Card #: _____

Security Code #: _____

Expiration Date: _____

Card Holder Signature: _____

Date: _____

Send Payment to:

MRWS
9 3rd St. N #304
Great Falls, MT 59401

Phone: 406-454-1151

Email: MTRuralWater@mrws.org