

# IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

City of Florence

## Failure to Test Backflow Prevention Devices

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable. Tradúzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

Our water system recently violated a drinking water requirement. Although this situation is **not an emergency**, as our customers you have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what we are doing to correct this situation.

The state drinking water program requires that all backflow prevention assemblies be tested yearly and the City of Florence is required to enforce these regulations. To stay in compliance with the state's testing compliance ratio, each public drinking water system must ensure that at least 90% of all backflow prevention devices are tested annually. We were issued a violation because the city did not receive sufficient testing data to achieve a 90% testing ratio. **Although Florence does not have any evidence of a backflow or back siphonage event, these installed assemblies, which are not tested annually, put our water system at risk.**

### What does this mean? What should I do?

- All business, commercial, industrial and multifamily residential water service connections please make sure to have your installed backflow assemblies tested by November 1<sup>st</sup> annually.
- **You do not need to boil your water or take other actions.** However, if you have specific health concerns, consult your doctor.
- Uncontrolled cross connections can lead to a back pressure or siphonage event that may allow contaminants or disease-causing organisms to enter the drinking water, which can cause diarrhea, nausea, cramps, and associated headaches.
- In the event of a backflow contamination incident and you have an infant, severely compromised immune system, are pregnant, or are elderly, you may be at increased risk and should seek advice from your doctor about drinking this water. General guidelines on ways to lessen the risk of infection by bacteria and other disease-causing organisms are available from EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1 (800) 426-4791.

### What is being done?

- This violation has been resolved. By April 1, 2024, the Florence Water Department required all backflow assemblies that were not tested in 2023 to be tested and the required documentation submitted to the city. To avoid a repeat violation, the Florence Water Department is actively trying to ensure that all applicable customers with installed backflow prevention assemblies have their devices tested by the end of 2024. For more information, please contact Brandon Harris at [brandon.harris@florencecolorado.org](mailto:brandon.harris@florencecolorado.org), or (719) 784-0618, or 600 West 3rd Street, Florence, CO 81226.

*\*Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.\**

This notice is presented to you by: The City of Florence – PWSID: CO0122500

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