

Ordinance #21-001

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF HOMER TO ESTABLISH ENFORCEMENT AND PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION OF THE CROSS-CONNECTION CONTROL AND BACKFLOW PREVENTION PROGRAM

Introduction

This Ordinance addresses the State of Louisiana Sanitary Code (LAC Title 51: XII & Title 17:I) that states a public water system shall have no uncontrolled cross-connections to a pipe, fixture, or supply, any of which contain water not meeting provisions of the safe drinking water regulations.

A cross-connection is any point in a water distribution system where chemical, biological, or radiological contaminants may come into contact with potable water. During a backflow event, these contaminants can be drawn or pushed back into the potable water system. A backflow prevention device installed at every point of cross-connection prevents contaminated water from entering the potable water distribution system.

Any hazardous cross-connection discovered to be uncontrolled will be corrected or the water service will be shut off. The Louisiana Department of Health will be informed of the hazardous connection and the corrective action being taken.

Identification of Potential Cross-Connections

Per LAC Title 51: XII & Title 17:I, the **Town of Homer** will perform a survey of the public water system through questionnaires and/or onsite inspections to identify potentially hazardous cross-connections, prioritized by the degree of hazard. From the date of this adopted policy forward, any new water service installation will be inspected for compliance with these requirements for backflow prevention.

Public Education

The **Town of Homer** will educate system users about the potential health risk that cross-connections pose, with an emphasis on cross-connections at or within homes and other residences.

Installation of Devices

The **Town of Homer** will require system users to install and maintain backflow prevention devices on potentially hazardous service connections, as stated in LAC Title 51: XII & Title 17:I. All service connections within the water system must comply with LAC Title 51: XII & Title 17:I.

Each cross-connection may require a different type of backflow prevention device, commensurate with the degree of hazard posed by the cross-connection.

Annual Inspections

The State Plumbing Code requires that air gaps and backflow prevention devices be inspected or tested upon installation, repaired, when relocated, annually, or as required by the plumbing official or water supplier by a certified backflow prevention technician.

Record Keeping

Testing and maintenance records will be kept for five years.

All service agreements, questionnaires, and the latest onsite premises surveys will be kept indefinitely.

Enforcement

To protect public health, water service will be discontinued after reasonable notice to the Customer if a violation of this Policy exists on the premises, and such other precautionary measures may be taken as are deemed necessary to eliminate any danger to the potable water supply. Water service will be discontinued if the proper backflow prevention assembly is not installed or not tested annually or not repaired when the assembly fails to meet state standards. Water service shall not be restored until the danger has been eliminated in compliance with this Ordinance. **The Town of Homer** retains the authority to immediately disconnect water service if necessary, to protect the public water supply.

Effective Date

This plan may be modified from time to time to meet the needs of the utility and to meet the State of Louisiana requirements. The policy will be reviewed by the water system periodically to determine if the existing plan meets state requirements set forth by the Louisiana Department of Health and that it promotes an effective ongoing Cross-connection Control program.


This ordinance shall take effect on this 12th day of April, 2021.

The ordinance having been submitted to a vote, the vote was as follows:

YEAS: 4 NAYS: 0 ABSTAINED: 0 ABSENT: 0

(Hardaway, West)

(Johnston, Adams)



Xanthe Seals, Mayor



Shenika Wright, Town Clerk