

May 22, 2023

Important Information Regarding Backflow Prevention Security

The City of Riverside has recently been experiencing an increase of utility metal theft and vandalism. Backflow prevention assemblies located on domestic, irrigation & fire protection systems are among the items being targeted.

It is important to keep backflow prevention assemblies secure from possible theft and vandalism.

Included are some methods that may be utilized to secure your equipment:

- Paint your assembly to blend into the surroundings
- Use shrubs to hide an assembly from plain sight
- Enclose your assemblies in a cage to help protect and secure it from damage, tampering and theft. (Cages that are installed should allow the backflow assembly to be fully maintained and inspected without damage)
- Verify locking equipment has not been removed

Prior to taking protective measures, please refer to the City of Riverside Public Utilities Standard Drawing CWD-616 for clearance requirements or call 951-351-6282/6167 for additional assistance.

If your equipment has recently been targeted, please be sure to do the following:

- Contact the Riverside Police Department Non-Emergency Line at 951-354-2007 to file a police report.
- Contact the RPU Water Operations staff at 951-351-6282/6167 for assistance identifying the make, model & serial number of the stolen or tampered equipment.
- If the equipment is to be replaced on emergency, make sure the hired contractor installs the backflow equipment per RPU and Manufacture Specification.

Please be aware that the water service will remain locked off until the backflow assembly has been replaced, inspected, and certified.

For additional information regarding the RPU Backflow Installation Specifications and a list of Approved Backflow Prevention Testers, please scan the QR code below or contact the RPU Cross-Connection & Backflow Department at 951-351-6282/6167.

