

Sample RPZ Ordinance 2:

RE: RPZ Program Overview

The City of _____ RPZ (Reduces Pressure Zone Valve) program was developed over 10 year ago in response to Chapter 4715.2161 of the Minnesota Plumbing Code, which requires the testing of RPZ backflow prevention devices every year and the rebuilding of the devices every five years. The program includes an inventory of all known RPZ devices installed at customer sites and functionality to monitor and record testing & rebuilding by certified Testers and Plumbers. The RPZ inventory is kept up to date by communication with the Building Inspection Division who oversees the installation of new devices and the rebuilding of existing devices.

The Utilities Division Customer Information System, or CIS, is utilized to maintain the RPZ inventory, mail test/rebuild notices, record test results, and charge an annual fee for administering the RPZ program (actually billed monthly on their Utility bill). Authority to charge the fee is defined in section _____ of the City Code. Additional follow-up is done by Utilities staff to report on past due tests and other backflow specific issues.

Although it is rare that enforcement action requiring water service disconnection is required, provisions are written into Chapter _____ of the City Code to enable the Utilities Division to act on enforcing the required testing/rebuilding that is mandatory for RPZ devices. That area of the code is as follows:

SEC. _____ DISCONTINUANCE OF SERVICE- ORDINANCE VIOLATIONS.

Water service shall be shut off at any stop box connection immediately and without prior notice whenever in the sole judgment of the Utility Division the service poses a threat to the safety or security of the City Water Supply System.

SEC. _____ CROSS CONNECTIONS PROHIBITED

- (b) **Disconnection of Service.** When cross connections are found to exist, the City will notify the owner to disconnect the cross connections and if not done immediately, the City water supply shall be turned off and it shall remain off until the cross connection is removed and the fittings sealed so as to prevent reconnection after service is restored.

RPZ test/rebuild notices are mailed monthly, all year long, depending on the test schedule and include attribute information on the RPZ device itself such as size, manufacturer, application and location within the building. Considerations are made for seasonal devices such as irrigation RPZ devices that can only be tested during the summer months. Accommodation is also made to customers with multiple devices so all devices can be tested at one time. The customer is given one month to complete the testing/rebuilding and return the results to the Utilities Division. The CIS software system includes a provision to mail the notices to parties other than the Bill-To Customer, which may not be appropriate for large corporations, etc.

Subject: Backflow Device Testing/Rebuilding

To whom it *may* concern:

In order to comply with Chapter 4715.2161 of the Minnesota Plumbing Code the following reduced pressure zone backflow prevention device(s) installed at the location(s) listed below must be tested or rebuilt on or before

_____.

Activity Required This Year: Test

Tests must be performed by a licensed plumber or certified tester. Rebuilds can only be performed by a licensed plumber who must pull a plumbing permit with the Building and Inspection Division.

Please forward a copy of this letter and the enclosed Inspection Report to the tester/plumber who will be performing the inspection/rebuild. After the device has been tested, mail or FAX the report to:

RPZ Information:				
Site Address:	Unit ID	Serial No:	RPZ.size:	MFG:
_____	_____	_____	0.75	
Location:				
Application:				

Thank you for your cooperation.

Should you need additional information or time to complete the required work, please contact me.

Sincerely,