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From the Office of the
Community Development
Assistant Director
Frederick Blalock

To: Plumbing & Lawn Irrigation Contractors

Subject: Installation of Lawn Irrigation Systems

Date: November 17, 2010

The following information is general in nature and that is in compliance with the 2006 International Plumbing Code for the installation of Back Flow protection devices for the lawn irrigation systems. The lawn irrigation contractor is required to design the lawn irrigation system such that if a street is widened or any other type of construction is required in the right-of-way or utility easements, that it will only have minimum impact on the system.

(State Law requires the Plumbing Contractor to install the potable water line and backflow prevention device)

General Installation Information

- 1) Obtain required permits. (Plumbing permit, electrical permit, revocable permit)
- 2) Install a full port main water valve at the point of connection to the potable water system.
(Note: Stop and Waste devices shall not be installed on potable water lines)
3. Water line to the backflow preventer is required to be a minimum of 24 inches deep to the top of the pipe. The piping material is required to comply with Table 605.3.
(Note: minimum size for sprinkler system is 1" SCH 40 PVC)
4. Two types of approved backflow preventers are Reduced Pressure Principle Back Flow Preventer (ASSE 1013) and a pressure – type vacuum breaker (ASSE 1020)
 - A) Installed on private property.
 - B) Installed per manufactures installation instruction.
 - 1) Reduced Pressure Principle Back Flow prevention.
 - 2) Pressure Vacuum breaker.
(Limitation's – shall be installed at least 12 inches higher than the highest head on the system)
 - a. Backflow protection devices shall be designed and installed to allow testing.
5. A outdoor weather enclosure is required to be installed in compliance with the ASSE 1060. (Weather enclosure is required to be anchored to a concrete base or foundation with a 4" long anchor bolts or equivalent concrete fasteners) A code approved heat tape with a thermostatic control is required to be installed. Insulating bags may also be required by the manufacturer.
6. A code approved GFI receptacle and a weather proof cover shall be installed within 2' feet of enclosures
(Note: extension cords shall not be installed)

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