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Protect Your Drinking Water from Outdoor Hazards

Making sure our customers have a safe, clean supply of water is a top priority at Greenville Utilities. Irrigation systems make watering lawns and gardens easier, save time, and can be energy efficient too. Sometimes though, irrigation systems can allow contaminants into our water supply through a process called backflow. Backflow is simply the backward movement of water.

Our water distribution system depends on water pressure to keep water flowing in the proper direction. Whenever there is a significant change in water pressure, like when firefighters use water to put out a fire or when a water main breaks, water and other

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contaminants could be pulled back into the water system. If things like weed killers, fertilizers and animal waste are around the irrigation system sprinkler heads when there is a drop in water pressure, they can be pulled into the piping inside your house and the water system. This reverse flow of water (backflow) can be dangerous.

A backflow prevention assembly will protect you and your neighbors by stopping that reverse flow. Lawn irrigation systems are required to have an approved backflow assembly. They must be properly installed and tested by a certified backflow tester at the time of installation and annually thereafter. In addition, since July 2009, all new irrigation systems must be connected to a separate meter.

For more information about making sure your lawn irrigation system is safe, please contact Greenville Utilities at 252-551-3399 or visit www.guc.com.