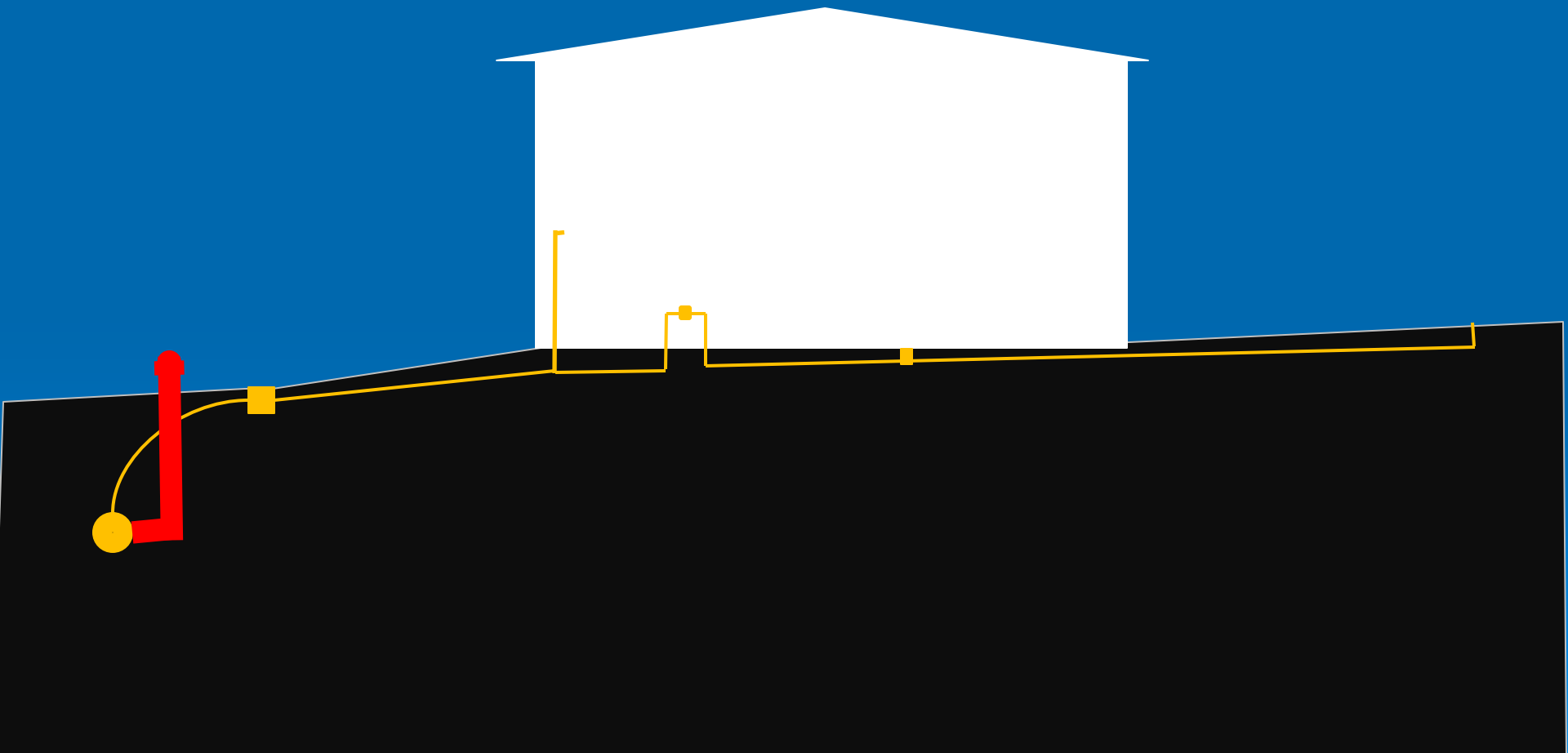
Backflow Prevention

What is backflow?



Hazards

- Chemical
  - Fertilizers
  - Pesticides
- Biological
  - Fecal Matter
  - Bacteria

Code References

30 Texas. Admin.Code §344.50 (TCEQ)

(c) Backflow prevention devices used in applications designated as health hazards must be tested upon installation and annually thereafter.

International Plumbing Code

312.10.1 Inspections. Annual inspections shall be made of all backflow prevention assemblies and air gaps to determine whether they are operable.

Occurrence of Potential Situations

Causes and Frequencies of Confirmed Backflow Events (2011)	
Confirmed Water Main Breaks	2,407
Flushing Dead End Mains (DEM)	25,000
Fires Fought by Fire Hydrant	1,000
Construction Meter Usage	13,000
Total (YTD)*	41,407

Number of Devices & Failure Rates

Residential Irrigation Backflow Prevention Assembly Failure Rates			
Year	Residential BPAs	Annual Inspection Failures	Annual Inspection Failure Rate
2009	3,329	775	23%
2010	6,120	682	11%
2011	6,527	1,025	15%

Did You Know?

- After the 2007 Boil Water Notices, we made major improvements in the following Programs:
  - Backflow
  - Dead-end Main Flushing
- TCEQ considers our programs the best in the state.

Recommendation

- Stay with the existing program
  - Annual Testing and Certification by a Licensed Backflow Prevention Assembly Tester (Municipal Code §14-291)