

CRYSTAL RIVER RANCH

Water System Update July 2012

Protect Your Water Heater From Thermal Expansion

Crystal River Ranch works hard to insure the water we deliver to your residence meets or exceeds all health standards. All public water systems are required to develop and implement cross-connection control (CCC) programs. The requirements are contained in WAC 246-290-490 of the Drinking Water Regulations. The purpose is to protect water quality by preventing the backflow of water from the customer's plumbing into the public water system. You are receiving this letter because we have, or are going to install, a meter setter that has a backflow prevention device.

When a backflow prevention device is placed on a water service line, the water delivered to the customer's residence is prevented from returning through the meter to the water main. This creates a closed system within the customer's residence. This letter is provided to ensure you receive this important information regarding the potential dangers of thermal expansion in a closed system.

Thermal expansion is a condition that exists whenever water is heated. The heated water cannot expand into the public water system because of the backflow device. Therefore, pressure may build up in your water heater tank and household plumbing. The resulting pressure buildup or thermal expansion usually causes the pressure relief valve (T & P Valve) on your water heater to open and water is emitted from the drain piping of your water heater. Under certain conditions, such as a failure of the T&P valve, a water tank may explode.

If you notice a discharge of water from your water heater you are probably experiencing thermal expansion. Current plumbing codes require the installation of thermal expansion relief devices in closed systems. Newer residences may already have a thermal expansion relief device installed. Please click this on-line link to publication "[American Water Works Pacific NW "Protection From Thermal Expansion"](#)" for additional information regarding thermal expansion tanks and T & P valves. We suggest you discuss the best solution for your needs with a licensed plumber.

Thank you for your understanding as we continue to meet or exceed all regulatory requirements in providing clean, safe drinking water. It is our pleasure to serve you.

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