

4. - BACKFLOW AT A DENTAL OFFICE

DATE OF BACKFLOW INCIDENT: November 1990

LOCATION OF BACKFLOW INCIDENT: Kansas

SOURCE(S) OF INFORMATION:

- Pacific Northwest Section of the American Water Works Association, Summary of Backflow Incidents, Fourth Edition, 1995

CASE HISTORY

Several residents in a community in central Kansas were experiencing air in their water. Employees of the water department traced the source to a dental office.

An air compressor at the dental office supplied air at 80 psig to dental equipment. The water pressure in the public water system varied from 40 to 45 psig. A solenoid valve that isolated the air supply from the potable water system malfunctioned. Consequently, the air compressor was trying to keep 80 psig of air in the entire public water system.

The water department required the dentist to install a reduced-pressure principle backflow-prevention assembly at the water service connection to the dental office.