

## **CROSS CONNECTION - THERMAL EXPANSION**

**With the installation of a meter being set by Huntingburg Water Utility, we must take this opportunity to inform you of a potential hazard that exists in relation to a dual check valve installed at your meter and your water heater.**

**Water heaters are installed with a temperature and pressure valve (T&P) which is designed to relieve excessive water temperature or pressure. Also aiding in the control of excessive heat and pressure is a condition known as thermal expansion, which allows extremely hot water to backflow into water main lines, mixing with the cold water and dissipating the heat.**

**However, when a backflow prevention device (dual check valve) is installed on a household water service line, the water cannot go back out into the water system. This leaves the T&P valve as the only release route for the overheated water.**

**If a water heater thermostat becomes defective, allowing the water temperature to increase to more than 212 degrees, and the T&P valve fails, your domestic water can become "superheated". Superheated water can cause water heaters to explode and endanger lives and or property or could allow scalding steam to be released from faucets upon personal use.**

**Huntingburg Water Utility recommends that you inspect your T&P valve periodically. Also a licensed plumber can inspect, repair or replace your T&P valve to ensure your safety.**

**Thermal expansion chambers and pressure relief toilet ball cock assemblies can provide additional protections.**

**Should you have any questions or desire more information, please feel free to contact the Utilities Department at 812-683-3622.**