

**FIRE PROTECTION HISTORY-PART 266: 1918  
(DOUBLE CHECK VALVES)**

By Richard Schulte

The twenty-second Annual Meeting of the National Fire Protection Association was held in Chicago in May 1918. Among the subjects discussed at this meeting was the Report of Committee on Private Water Supplies from Public Mains. This report (briefly) addressed the reliability of a new device, double check valves. The following is a transcript of the Report:

*“The Secretary: Major French has sent me a very brief line on this subject, which he usually reports verbally, as you all know. (Reading.)*

***Report of Committee on Private Fire Supplies  
from Public Mains.***

*E. V. French, Chairman.*

*A. T. Bell, Geo. W. Booth, L. W. Evans, E. B. Hatch, Ira G. Hoagland, H. B. Machen, Richard H. Morris, H. L. Phillips, Benjamin Richards, P. D. C. Steward.*

*There have been no new developments in the matters covered by our Committee, and conditions stand as described somewhat fully in the Proceedings of the 1917 meeting. **The lengthening experience with double check valves has been satisfactory, and strengthens the belief in their reliability.** The additional work and problems which the war conditions have imposed on practically everybody have made it impossible to take up the general problems outlined at our last meeting, and to pursue the work with the committees of the two water works associations.*

*The report was accepted.”*

In 1918, double check valves were a relatively new device and field experience with this device was still limited. Today, the use of double check valves for backflow prevention purposes is commonplace.

\* \* \* \* \*

**Source:** *“Proceedings of the Twenty-Second Annual [NFPA] Meeting”*, Chicago, Illinois, 1918.

Copyright © 2014  
Richard C. Schulte