

Sinkhole Repair 'DEP'-ends on Safety



On Thursday, June 28, DEP was alerted to a possible sink hole forming under 92nd Street in Bay Ridge, Brooklyn. After Assistant Commissioner **Edward Coleman** and his team checked their records, they “knew we had a potential problem,” said Coleman.

The “problem” was that a colossal 11-foot sewer line runs underneath

92nd street in Brooklyn at a depth of roughly 70 feet. Built in 1902, the sewer line was designed to carry between 15 and 28 million gallons of wastewater to the Owls Head Wastewater Treatment Plant on a normal dry weather day. A potential break in a line of this size required an equally robust response from DEP and its emergency contractors.

(Continued on reverse side)

Spotlight on Safety

Tick, Tick, Tick – It’s that time of year again

For those who work outside, or who engage in outdoor recreational activities, this is an important reminder about Lyme disease. Lyme disease is a bacterial infection caused by the bite of an infected deer tick.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, New York, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, and New Jersey have the highest number of reported cases of Lyme disease nation-wide. From 2000-2009 these four states made up a staggering 62% of the all reported cases.

Symptoms of early localized Lyme disease begin days or weeks after infection, and may include a spreading rash at the site of the bite, body-wide itching, chills, fever, headache, light-headedness, and muscle pain or a stiff neck.

Employees who work in areas that are known to have deer tick populations should take the following precautionary measures:

- Wear light colored clothing (long pants and sleeves) to make it easier to spot ticks
- Examine clothing and skin for ticks after spending time outside
- Tuck pant legs into socks
- Apply insect repellent
- Remove the ticks as soon as they are detected

Untreated, the disease can cause a number of health problems but patients treated with antibiotics in the early stage of the infection usually recover rapidly and completely.

Please visit the CDC  and the NYS DOH  for more information on Lyme disease.

At DEP, everyone is responsible for safety. If you or anyone on your team is concerned about your working conditions, it's okay to ask your supervisor or your bureau's EHS liaison how they can help. If you've still got questions, you can call the EHS Employee Concerns Hotline. It's DEP's responsibility to acknowledge and fix unsafe situations, procedures, and practices. With your help, we'll not only get the job done, we'll make it safer for ourselves, our coworkers, our families, and our city.

CALL (800) 897-9677 OR SEND A MESSAGE THROUGH PIPELINE. HELP IS ON THE WAY. 

Commissioner's Corner

DEP takes the environmental stewardship of New York City seriously, and works diligently every day to fulfill that responsibility. However, DEP is not alone in executing this important duty: We have partners throughout city, state, and federal government who join us in our commitment to ensuring a vibrant, healthy environment that all New Yorkers can appreciate and enjoy.

Last Monday, **Mayor Bloomberg** signed an unprecedented agreement with the National Park Service detailing ways to cooperatively manage 10,000 acres of federal and city-owned parks in and around Jamaica Bay. This partnership will better connect urban communities to the natural beauty of Jamaica Bay and adjacent park space, building on a commitment made last October between the Mayor and U.S. Secretary of the Interior **Ken Salazar** to establish the Jamaica Bay area as a great urban park. This agreement outlines immediate actions as well as long-term strategies to support a new vision of shared stewardship, and calls for the establishment of a new nonprofit group that will work to raise funds for the planning and development of Jamaica Bay parklands and waters. I was honored to be present for the signing of this historic agreement. None of this would be possible without the work done by DEP every day to treat wastewater and remove pollutants, which has resulted in the cleanest harbor water in 100 years.

As we look to protect the future vibrancy of our natural ecosystems, we remain continually mindful of our immediate responsibilities in the day-to-day operations of New York City. As the temperature climbs, we must confront the challenges posed by illegally opened hydrants. One of the most important resources we have in that effort lies within local communities, exemplified by the Hydrant Education Action Team program (HEAT). This annual initiative informs residents of the dangers of unauthorized and improper use of fire hydrants through four teams of students who alert residents to the danger, waste, and illegality of opening fire hydrants without an authorized spray cap. HEAT teams distribute information at parks,



neighborhood events, churches and local streets to explain to residents that opening fire hydrants during hot days can significantly reduce local water pressure, potentially impairing firefighting operations and impacting local businesses and residences. The program runs through August 17, and is run in partnership with the South Bronx Overall Economic Development Corporation and the New York City Department of Youth and Community Development. Last Wednesday, I had the chance to meet many of the hardworking and critical volunteers for this program; they are representing New York City and their communities well in this important effort. I thank all members of the HEAT team here at DEP, including **Sara Pecker**, **Eileen Alter**, and **Sofia Sainz** in BCIA, and **Anthony Marchese** and his colleagues in BWSO.

This year's high temperatures are a reminder that a whole year has passed since DEP was tested by the fire at the North River Wastewater Treatment Plant during a heat wave last July. On Friday, I joined Deputy Mayor **Holloway**, Deputy Commissioners **Kathryn Garcia** and **Vincent Sapienza**, **Kevin Donnelly**, and **Steve Askew** to visit the plant and review the work that has been done in the intervening months to repair the damage from that challenging incident—and ensure that it never happens again. Last year's fire posed one of DEP's greatest tests, but the agency's response to the incident ultimately proved one of DEP's proudest moments. I thank all of my colleagues for banding together to meet the challenge last summer, and for their diligent work ever since to ensure the security, safety, and reliability of the plant for years to come.

Focus on the Field

About one year ago, **Jim Moran** began working at DEP as the Chief of Emergency Construction at the Bureau of Water and Sewer Operations (BWSO). This marked his return to DEP after beginning his career here more than twenty years ago as a construction inspector. In his new position, Moran manages all construction work that is outside the scope of DEP maintenance and repair crews. This entails managing several emergency projects that are performed by contractors and are overseen by a team of engineers and inspectors that report to him.

In addition to Emergency Construction, Moran also manages two other units. One unit oversees required reconstruction of water main infrastructure resulting from outside agencies' capital projects. The second unit ensures water and sewer connections to private homes conform with DEP standards. When asked if there was ever a time without an emergency project going on, Moran just laughed and replied, "No—we usually have about 30 projects on any given day!"

Moran credits the tremendous work of his staff for ensuring the



work is completed in a timely and safe manner.

One of his current major projects is the approximately 70-foot deep, 11-foot diameter sewer line collapse at 92nd Street in Brooklyn. Moran has been coordinating the work of contractors, engineers, utility companies, and other city agencies on site. "92nd Street stands out because of the unique conditions and the complexity of repairing a sewer line of this size and depth," Moran said.

Although probably not quite as hectic as managing many city emergencies, with three young boys at home, his time outside of DEP is often spent running between soccer and baseball games.

Kodak Moment



SMOOTH SAILING: Two sailors are enjoying a July day on the Pepacton Reservoir, which was recently opened for the first time as part of the expanded recreational boating program.

Word of the Week

Weir — An overflow structure from which water exits a basin. It is typically in the form of a wall or channel.

Did You Know



...that DEP's Water-On-the-Go program has its own iPhone/iPad app? The app provides a convenient way of locating the fountains each day. To download the free app, go to the iTunes store and search for NYC Water.

(Sinkhole Repair 'DEP'-ends on Safety... continued)

Under the direction of Deputy Commissioner **James Roberts**, who coordinated the response effort, Coleman notified the emergency construction unit, led by **Jim Moran**, and called in the sewer repair team. They found a 30 by 30 foot void underneath the roadway of 92nd Street just west of 3rd Avenue. Coleman described it as the "largest and deepest sewer collapse I have seen in my entire 42 year career."

Like the trunk of a tree, the 11-foot sewer line is connected to a number of smaller lines. In order to avoid impacting these smaller sewer branches, temporary bypass pumps were installed to carry sewage around the collapse. This required laying 3000 feet of temporary sewer line, built out of 24 inch high-density polyurethane pipe, just below the roadway.

While this effort was underway, the existing local sewer collection system was used to help bypass the collapse until the temporary lines were completed. Now that the bypass lines are up and running, crews are excavating their way down to the 11-foot sewer line to determine the extent of the damage.

Thanks to the hard work of DEP's crews and contractors, a far larger accident was avoided. But Coleman believes that Mother Nature deserves a share of the credit too: "Had we experienced a substantial rainfall prior to the installation of the bypass lines, the existing system could have been overwhelmed with serious consequences for the local community. Our team did a great job attacking a complex problem under a tight deadline."

Press Box

"Driving on the Brooklyn-Queens Expressway, it's hard to miss the eight giant Digester Eggs at the Newtown Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant in Greenpoint, Brooklyn, which process up to 1.5 million gallons of sludge every day.... Now the eggs can be seen in another form—miniaturized—as part of the Panorama of the City of New York, the massive scale model of New York City at the Queens Museum of Art built for the 1964-1965 World's Fair." – from [NY 1 coverage](#) of Commissioner Carter Strickland placing a model of the digester eggs on the Queens Museum of Art NYC panorama

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