



NYC Department of Environmental Protection
Bureau of Water & Sewer Operations, Environmental Health & Safety (EHS)

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Environmental Health & Safety News for BWSO!



www.ops.fhwa.dot.gov

"More than 40,000 people are injured each year as a result of accidents within work zones— one injury every 9 minutes."
– BWSO EHS Staff



BUREAU OF WATER & SEWER OPERATIONS
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & SAFETY DIVISION

Setting Up for Safety— Traffic Work Zone Safety!

Did you know that during peak construction season approximately 20% of our nation's highway system is under construction with over 3,000 work zones? Motorists can expect to encounter an active work zone one out of every 100 miles driven on the nation's highway system. Statistics report that more than 40,000 people are injured each year as a result of accidents within work zones (one injury every 9 minutes) and there is one work zone fatality every 8 hours. As a result of these alarming statistics throughout the country, DEP works diligently to reduce and ultimately eliminate injuries that occur from employees working in on-going traffic by implementing policies and procedures such as our Traffic Work Zone Safety Policy.

DEP's EHS division is responsible for creating guidelines and standard operating procedures (SOPs) that are designed to enhance the safety of DEP employees as they perform their tasks in... **Continued on Page 3**

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**April 22, 2011 marked the 41st
Anniversary of Earth Day!**



www.nourishingnyc.org

Read the History of Earth Day on Page 2

Do Your Part to Save the Environment— Recycle Universal and Electronic Waste!

Universal and electronic wastes are regulated hazardous wastes which are commonly generated not only at DEP facilities, but also at many businesses and industries across the country.

What are Universal and Electronic Waste?

Universal waste includes mercury-containing lamps and equipment, used pesticides and certain types of batteries. Some examples of universal waste include fluorescent light tubes, lithium batteries and old thermostats. Electronic wastes are defined as discarded consumer electronics; some of the more common examples include computers, televisions and cell phones.

But we use these items every day, so why are they hazardous?

All universal and electronic waste items contain toxic components which are safe for day to day use but, if landfilled or incinerated, these toxic substances could escape and contaminate air, soil, surface water and groundwater. These types of waste are... **Continued on Page 2**

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**ACT FAST— ONLY ONE CAN WIN
THE DUNKIN' DONUTS GIFT CARD!
TAKE QUIZ ON PAGE 4**

OEHS Audits – They're New and Improved!

The Office of Environmental Health & Safety (OEHS), formerly known as the Office of Environmental, Health & Safety Compliance (OEHSC), recently revamped its auditing program. The new program, currently being piloted here at BWSO, is called the Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) Assessment program. The objective is to identify programmatic EHS issues and to determine the root cause of those issues. The assessment begins with an opening meeting, after which the assessment team conducts a walkthrough of the facility in order to identify any compliance issues.

A new component of the OEHS assessments is the employee interview. During this portion of the assessment, OEHS randomly selects a representative population of employees who work at the facility and interviews them individually. Some of the questions asked during the interview are:

- If you wanted more information about a particular product where would you go to get the information?
- Where are your primary and secondary assembly areas?
- Do you have any EHS concerns related to your job?
- What is the most hazardous chemical you use during the course of your day?
- If you had any EHS concerns to whom would you go?

Every employee has an option to refuse to be interviewed. However, if you elect to participate, you have the right to decline to answer any question you do not feel comfortable answering.

The new audit report is broken down into three sections: areas of concern, recommendations and findings. The areas of concern are issues that do not rise to the level of a finding, but are important to note and follow-up on. Recommendations are best management practices that may not be regulatory bound, but would be good to implement within the facility. Findings are still categorized as priority 1, 2, and 3, and the final report identifies EHS programmatic breakdowns and the root cause for those breakdowns. Priority 1 findings must be corrected within 24 hours, priority 2 findings must be corrected within 30 days, and priority 3 findings must be corrected within 110 days.

Another new component of the OEHS assessments is the appraisal questionnaire. This questionnaire is distributed to the Bureau assessment participants and is a good way for the Bureau to provide OEHS with constructive feedback regarding the effectiveness of the assessment. The questionnaire is returned to Gerould McCoy, Assistant Commissioner of EHS Management Systems, OEHS.

This pilot program has been positively received by BWSO facility personnel, and the interview process has been an effective tool in determining the health of EHS programs at BWSO. Once the pilot phase is completed, OEHS hopes to expand the program across the agency.

Congratulations to:

Shaft Maintenance – Machine Shop Staff

on receiving the first

EHS Matters Employee Award

in recognition of their exemplary commitment to

environmental, health and safety.



If you see someone doing a great job, submit a nomination form to Karen Marino at kmarino@dep.nyc.gov!

"TIME OUT" – A New Concern Category!



Have you heard that the Employee Concerns Procedure (revision 2) has a new "Group 2" concern category? This category has a "time-out" provision allowing an employee to call the EHS Employee Concerns Hotline in situations in which the employee believes that there is an EHS emergency or immediately dangerous situation

which requires immediate response, or that he or she has been given a direction or order that, if followed, would cause or constitute a violation of an environmental or employee health or safety law. In other words, if an employee cannot come to a resolution with his or her Supervisor, the employee has the right to call a "time-out" for the task which he/she reasonably believes to pose such a risk or violation of law. Once the DEP EHS Concerns Hotline is contacted, an On-Call responder (OCR) will be contacted to respond to the concern and help remedy the situation.

Remember— when in doubt, contact your EHS liaison for assistance!

The History of Earth Day



Each year April 22nd marks the anniversary of Earth Day, an American environmental movement that started in 1970. Over 40 years ago, Earth Day was established by Wisconsin Senator Gaylord Nelson. The idea of Earth Day came to him after he witnessed the 1969 massive oil spill in Santa Barbara, California. Inspired by the student anti-war movement, he realized that if he could infuse that energy into an emerging public consciousness about air and water pollution, he could thrust environmental protection into the national political agenda. Nelson publically announced the idea for a "national teach-in on the environment." Twenty million Americans took to the streets, parks, and auditoriums rallying for a healthy, sustainable environment. Some of the participants had been fighting for a long time against oil spills, polluting factories and power plants, raw sewage, toxic dumps, pesticides, freeways, the loss of wilderness, and the extinction of wildlife.

Earth Day merged an array of concerns into a common cause and a diversity of activists into a powerful political force. In December 1970, Congress established the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) which led to the passage of the Clean Air, Clean Water, and Endangered Species Acts.

Today, the fight for a clean environment continues, so take simple steps such as conserving water, biking instead of driving, planting a tree, choosing energy saving appliances, and recycling to help improve the environment.

For more information on Earth Day, go to: www.earthday.org and www.epa.gov/earthday.

Do Your Part to Save the Environment— Recycle Universal and Electronic Waste!

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so common and the quantity generated are so large that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has provided some exemptions from the hazardous waste regulations to make it easier for us to manage. These exemptions are called 'reliefs' by regulatory agencies and, while we are relieved that we don't have to follow all of the hazardous waste regulations, there are still a good number of requirements that must be met in order to maintain regulatory compliance. These wastes can be generated, transported, and stored under simplified rules, but once they're disposed of they must be recycled.

In 2009, New York City entered into a consent agreement with the EPA which mandates that all city agencies manage their waste in accordance with local, state and federal regulations. As a result of the consent agreement, a city-wide contract was established to ensure that all city agencies meet these requirements by streamlining universal and electronic waste removal and ultimate recycling. The new city-wide contract will be managed by NYC Department of Sanitation (DSNY) and includes an online system for ordering supplies and services. There are mail-back and consolidation options available. A new DEP policy titled "Universal and Electronic Waste Management" which reflects these changes will be issued soon. Please let us know if you have any questions!

If you would like to begin electronic and universal waste recycling at home, there are several services available to the public. Please refer to the websites below for further information. Be aware that beginning April 1, 2011 manufacturers of electronic devices are responsible for the costs of taking back and managing their electronic products when consumers are done with them!

www.call2recycle.org – The free Call2Recycle program that accepts used batteries and cell phones for recycling.

www.nyc.gov/html/nycwasteless – Detailed recycling information from DSNY.

Setting Up for Safety— Traffic Work Zone Safety!

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on-going traffic. DEP's guidelines and SOPs are modeled after the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) standards (29 CFR 1926 Subpart G) that regulate work in traffic. OSHA is an authority within the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) whose main goal is to eliminate on-the-job illnesses, injuries, and fatalities. Signs, cones and other traffic control devices are essential to a good traffic work zone setup. According to the OSHA standard 29 CFR 1926.200(g)(2), "all traffic control signs or devices used for protection of construction workers shall conform to Part VI of the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices." DEP employees are trained thoroughly on the importance of the use of signs to alert motorists to upcoming work zones as well as cones and traffic control barrels to set up the work zone. If a flagger is needed, he or she must comply with the OSHA standard 29 CFR 1926.201(a), which states, "signaling by flaggers and the use of flaggers, including warning garments worn by flaggers shall conform to Part VI of the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices, (1988 Edition, Revision 3 or the Millennium Edition), which are incorporated by reference in 1926.200(g)(2)." The Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) is the national guidebook published by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). The MUTCD regulates the size, color, shape, wording, and placement of all traffic control devices.

On the occasions where our Field Operations employees are required to work in areas where there

"The Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) is the national guidebook published by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). The MUTCD regulates the size, color, shape, wording, and placement of all traffic control devices."

www.cctcomply.net



are high volumes of traffic such as highways, additional guidance through EHS is often sought out. Field Operations Supervisors will often coordinate with trained EHS professionals to sketch, create, and plan a work zone setup before employees venture into the field. The Health and Safety Professional that is assigned to this task is usually the on-site Safety Officer for the facility that is doing the work. Safety Officers are often present on-site while the crew is performing the task to ensure that the crew is in compliance with the sketched work zone setup and the PPE requirements mandated by DEP's EHS

division for all employees working within a traffic work zone setup.

If you have any questions or concerns on a work zone setup, contact EHS.

References:

"Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD)"

<http://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov/kno_2009.htm>

"OSHA History (Archive)"

<<http://www.osha.gov/history/index.html>>

"OSHA Standard CFR 1926.200" Web.

<<http://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb>>

"The National Work Zone Safety Information Clearinghouse" <www.wzsafety.tam.edu>

UPCOMING TRAINING:

April – May

1. Respiratory Protection
2. CPR/First Aid & Bloodborne Pathogens Training
3. Confined Space Training
4. Hazwoper Refresher
5. Forklift Training
6. Water Plant Operator C.E.U.s:
 - Leak Detection
 - UV Disinfection Training

Questions?

Contact Nelson Leon at (718) 595-5544

A Day in the Life of a Machinist, Russell Reinhartsen

On April 6, 2011 at 9:30 AM, The Conduit reporters, Julie Bae and Geysa Gonzalez, met up with Russell Reinhartsen at the intersection of N. Moore Street and West Street to witness a trunk main reactivation. The project was assigned to Russell by John Byrne, Manhattan Distribution Engineer for BWSO's Distribution Operations. The trunk main was put offline in January 2011 to allow the Department of Design and Construction (DDC) to install a new valve. The DDC was now finished with the installation.

9:45 AM: The crew moved a block away to Chambers Street to manually open a 6 inch bypass.

The day before, the crew checked all trunk main appurtenances needed in today's operation to ensure proper positions. Today, the contractors will disinfect the trunk main as per specification. The purpose of the disinfection is to clean the water main that has been out of service. The main will be filled and the valves will be reopened to put the main back into distribution only after satisfactory water samples are collected and reported.

10:03 AM: Russell Reinhartsen and Tony Lawson, Construction Laborer, opened a manhole cover and noticed water inside so they connected a hydraulic hose to the pump in order to pump the water out to see the operating nut.



10:13 AM: Once the water was removed, Russell and Tony removed the hose and pump, and placed them in the back of the truck.

As the water was being pumped, Reinhartsen explained to the reporters that right now we need to fill the main so we're going to use a 6 inch bypass around the main valve and fill the main slowly to get all the air out. Russell stressed that you can't just put water in the main or the main will burst!



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*We'd love to hear
from you!*

E-mail us at:

BWSOEHS_suggestions@dep.nyc.gov

A Day in the Life of a Machinist, Russell Reinhartsen

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10:17 AM: Russell opened the 6 inch bypass to refill a section of the trunk main.

10:25 AM: The DDC injects the disinfectant.



A reporter asked Russell what are your responsibilities as a Machinist. Machinists maintain and overhaul the regulators, fabricate/replicate parts for gears, valves, and regulators. We also open and close valves for water main shut downs or start-ups.

10:30 AM: Russell and Tony left the site with the reporters to go to a regulator chamber.

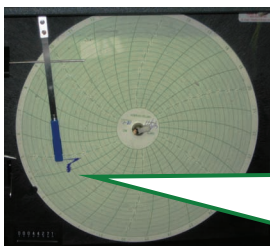
10:47 AM: Russell, Tony, and the reporters arrived at the distribution chamber. Once inside the distribution chamber, the reporters, Russell and Tony signed the visitor's log. Russell called the clerk to inform her that we entered the distribution chamber.

Russell informed the reporters that there are about 50 regulators in Manhattan. From City Tunnel 1, water travels by gravity and branches out to regulators where the pressure is brought down to street level (e.g. from 120 lbs. to 48 lbs. of pressure.) The regulators automatically open and close depending on the water demand on the street. There are three regulators here. The water is fed up from City Tunnel 1 to these regulators. Machinists check the regulators to monitor the pressure, check for leaks, and see how the regulator responds to different flows.



10:52 AM: Russell showed the reporters a regulator. He explained we control the function of the regulator with water so water is always filtering through the top half of the regulator.

11:08 AM: Reinhartsen removed a screen from the regulator, which is cleaned once a month. He informed the reporters that the screen keeps the regulator performing correctly.



11:27 AM: Russell pointed to the monthly charts that keep a record of how much water is flowing per day out of each regulator. The chart calculated 54 million gallons of water was leaving from the chamber.

12:30 PM: The tour of the distribution chamber concluded.

Russell Reinhartsen worked at the DEP for 20 years; two years at a sewage treatment plant, seven years at Shaft Maintenance, and 11 years at Manhattan Water Maintenance. He was born and raised in Staten Island. Russell attended McKee Vocational High School where he gained machine shop training. As a Machinist, Russell maintains and overhauls the regulators, fabricates/replicates parts for gears, valves, and regulators, and opens/closes valves for water main shut downs and start-ups. In his spare time, he likes to fish and spend time with his two boys.



TAKE THIS QUIZ: SUBMIT CORRECT ANSWERS FOR A CHANCE TO WIN A FREE GIFT CARD
BE SURE TO INCLUDE YOUR FULL NAME AND WORK ADDRESS. FAX: (718) 595-5541 AND/OR
EMAIL: BWSOEHS_suggestions@dep.nyc.gov

1. A buffer in a work zone setup:

- A) is the second part of a traffic control zone.
- B) provides a safety zone in the event that drivers do not respond appropriately.
- C) must be 10 feet wide.
- D) All of the above.
- E) A + B

2. Which of the following would be the correct wording for a universal waste container?

- A) Hazardous Mercury Containing Bulbs
- B) Universal Waste – Lamps
- C) Spent Light Tubes
- D) Used Oil

3. If you feel while working you are being given a direction that violates a health and safety law, you should:

- A) perform the task anyway.
- B) explain to your Supervisor that you feel it is unsafe to perform the task.
- C) call the EHS Hotline if you cannot come to a resolution with your Supervisor.
- D) All of the above
- E) B + C

Answers for February 2011 Newsletter Quiz: 1) D 2) C 3) B