

Educators Attend DEP Climate Conference



DEP's Education Team hosted a conference Feb. 28 titled "Exploring the Current State of Climate Science in New York City" at the South Street Seaport Museum. Commissioner Sapienza welcomed over 75 non-formal educators representing 50 organizations, including city, state and federal agencies, cultural institutions, and environmental organizations. The event provided an opportunity for educators to learn about how New York City is adapting to climate change and what they can do to help inform New Yorkers on the importance of conservation, stewardship, and climate action. Presenters from DEP, The New York City Panel on Climate Change, New York University, The Mayor's Office of Resiliency, and The Kurt Hahn Expeditionary Learning School discussed their research, policymaking, and how they are empowering young people to take action.

Spotlight on Safety

March is National Ladder Safety Month

Ladders ranked number six on OSHA's Top Ten Most Frequently Cited workplace safety violations of FY2018. Every year, more than 100 people die in ladder-related accidents, and thousands suffer disabling injuries. Most ladder falls happen between 6 and 10 feet off the ground and involve missing the last step when climbing down and overreaching. To ensure safe use of ladders:

- inspect the ladder for any defects
- consider the height of the work location

- check the weight to be imposed on the ladder
- evaluate the work location, for example never use metal ladders near power lines
- maintain 3 points of contact—two hands and one foot or one hand and two feet
- take defective ladders out of service

For additional information on ladder safety, visit: [OSHA Portable Ladder Safety](#) and [National Ladder Safety Month](#).

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.

Special Guest Commissioner's Corner



Tasos Georgelis, DEP's Deputy Commissioner for the Bureau of Water and Sewer Operations, is a guest commentator this week.

As part of continued efforts to highlight and celebrate the expertise of the men and women of the Bureau of Water and Sewer Operations, last Wednesday, the bureau hosted teams from across the five boroughs to compete in a Hydrant Hysteria competition at the Queens training yard. Nine two-man teams raced to assemble a Dresser-style fire hydrant as quickly as possible, showcasing the skills needed to maintain and operate the city's 109,000 fire hydrants. A properly functioning hydrant is essential so that firefighters have ready access to the city's water supply in case of an emergency.

Following a morning of fast-paced action, the final contest came down to Construction Laborer **Steven Duhs** and Construction Laborer **Joseph Cianciotta** from Staten Island Repairs battling against Construction Laborer **Chris Davis** and Apprentice Construction Laborer **Dave Thomas** from Queens Repairs. The Staten Island team emerged victorious from the timed challenge and was awarded a M&H-style hydrant to practice on in preparation for the American Water Works Association New York Section regional competition, to be held April 17 at New York's Water Event in Saratoga Springs. Should they prevail on the statewide stage and advance, the Staten Island Repairs team would then head to the AWWA ACE19 national competition, held June 9-12, in Denver, Colorado. Best of luck to Steven and Joseph!

I'd like to thank Commissioner **Vincent Sapienza**, OD&HR Deputy Commissioner **Zoe Ann Campbell**, Mike Farnan, Jerry Fragias, **Anthony Marchese**, **Paul Vilella**, and all the others who took time from their busy days to stop by the training yard and cheer on the participants. Your support was greatly appreciated. I also want to recognize all the staff who volunteered to serve as stopwatch operators and judges. And, lastly, a big thank you to the Hydrant Committee members, coach **John Thomas**, District Supervisor for Brooklyn Repairs, for organizing the fun-filled event, and **Milton Velez**, Training Yard District Supervisor, for setting up the hydrants and competition site. Please [click here](#) for more pictures.



DEP Internship Opportunities



DEP is encouraging college students to apply for summer job opportunities through its annual internship program. The program this year is offering dozens of internships in the fields of engineering, science, technology, planning, sustainability, law, community outreach and more. Those accepted into the 10-week summer internship program will have the chance to work alongside a diverse team of highly skilled DEP employees who operate the nation's largest municipal water and wastewater utility, and enforce noise and air regulations throughout the five boroughs. The vast majority of the internships are located at DEP headquarters in Queens; three of the positions will be at DEP Archives in Manhattan; and 17 internships are based upstate in the New York City watershed. Information about all internships, including online applications, can be found on [DEP's website](#).

\$25M Upgrade for Eltingville



A [\\$25 million project](#) is underway to upgrade the drainage and water delivery infrastructure in the Staten Island neighborhood of Eltingville. Work includes the addition of 100 new catch basins, nearly three miles of new sewers, and improvements to the Wood Duck Pond Bluebelt to help reduce flooding and protect the environment. In addition, more than two miles of new water mains and 34 newly added fire hydrants will ensure that residents, businesses, and firefighters have ready access to the City's water supply. The plans also call for three natural drainage systems to be built in the vicinity of Wood Duck Pond Bluebelt. Stormwater collected from surrounding roadways will be directed to this Bluebelt wetland, which will be built on City-owned property, to allow the water to be naturally filtered in order to protect the environment.

We welcome your feedback! To submit an announcement or suggestion, please email us at: newsletter@dep.nyc.gov.

Water Conservation Workshop



Nearly 75 water supply professionals from Orange, Putnam, Ulster, and Westchester counties joined DEP at a Water Loss Reduction and Control workshop held Feb. 26 in West Harrison, NY. Hosts **Bill Richardson** (BWS) and **Jennifer Warner** (Water Research Foundation) kicked off the day with a welcome message about the Foundation and a short background of DEP's planned aqueduct shutdowns for the next decade. **Erin Morey** (BEPA, Director Demand Management & Resilience policy) solidified the importance of loss control with a presentation on NYC's Water Demand Management Plan in support of the Delaware Aqueduct Bypass Tunnel shutdown. BEPA and BWS expect to see continued water savings from wholesale customers as DEP moves from the planning phase to implementation agreements. These agreements provide funding for wholesale customers to put in place specific intervention strategies including: leak detection programs, customer alerting tools, advanced metering infrastructure, monthly billing, as well as some fixture replacement programs.

Welcome Aboard!



Last Monday, 12 new employees attended orientation and received an overview of the department from Commissioner **Vincent Sapienza** and Director of Planning and Recruitment **Grace Pigott** (not pictured). We hope everyone will join us in welcoming them to DEP!

Brian K. Odemena with BEC; **Alicia R. Allyar**, Ediant Martinaj, and **Tiffany Norwood** with BEDC; **Michelle M. Pomponio** with BWS; **Saif R. Abdul**, **Lazaro De La Cruz**, **Rashida Y. Johnson**, **Nitika Pandey**, **Jose M. Soto**, and **Danielle M. Torruella** with BWSO; and **Aaron Liu** with BWT.



This month, DEP is celebrating our value of integrity. If you know someone who embodies this value, please send an email by March 19th to values@dep.nyc.gov, and include the name of who you are nominating, their bureau, and a brief description of how they embody this value.