

Air-ing on the Side of Caution for Health

The New York City Air Pollution Control Code, or Air Code, entitles all New Yorkers to clean, healthy air. It's the job of the Air Engineering Office, led by **Ray Hodge**, to make sure that happens. Staffed with 17 engineers, the office handles the "before" and "after" of combustion equipment and industrial processes that create emissions, including boilers (over 350,000 BTU), generators, spray painting in auto body and furniture shops, dry cleaners and other manufacturing uses. The minimum boiler size threshold effectively excludes one and two family homes from this requirement and helps DEP focus on potentially significant sources of pollution.



is installed and operates as designed. After the three-year lifespan of a permit, inspectors conduct another in-person inspection since failure to properly maintain equipment is a significant source of air pollution. Other than violations from failure to renew a permit, common violations of the Air Code include sustained visible emissions and odors often reported through 311. Assistant Commissioner **Mike Gilsenan**

(Continued on reverse side)

Before facilities are built or equipment is installed, professional engineers or architects must submit plans to DEP for review. Once plans are approved and permits issued, inspectors follow up with field inspections to ensure compliance and that the equipment

Spotlight on Safety

"Please - Move Over!"

Nationally, since 1999, there have been more than 160 emergency response officials struck and killed by vehicles while performing their duties. Beginning on January 1, 2011, The Ambrose-Searles 'Move Over Act' took effect in NY State. The law seeks to improve and assure the safety of first responders.

Collisions with emergency responder personnel are avoidable. First responders and state traffic officials urge motorists to move over and slow down when they see an emergency vehicle with its lights activated. The Ambrose-Searles 'Move Over Act,' was named after two officers killed in the line of duty. It stipulates that:

- Drivers must use care when approaching an emergency vehicle

that displays red and/or white emergency lighting.

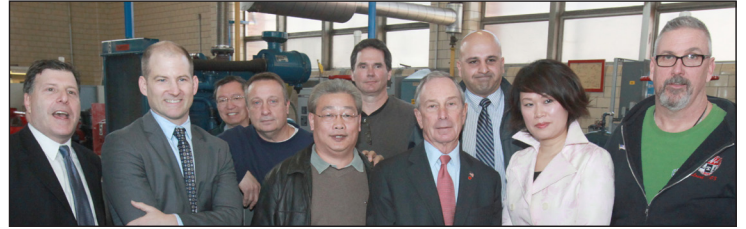
- o On all roads and highways, drivers **must** reduce speed;

- o On Parkways and other controlled access highways with multiple lanes, drivers **must** move from the lane immediately adjacent to the emergency vehicle, **unless** traffic or other hazards exist to prevent doing so safely.

By informing the public of the law and enforcing its provisions, traffic safety for emergency professionals will be improved.

As DEP employees, you should be aware of any workers along the side of the road and be prepared to yield to police and emergency responder vehicles. Following the rules and maintaining alertness may be all that's needed to prevent tragedy.

Commissioner's Corner



Yesterday, **Mayor Bloomberg**, **Deputy Mayor Stephen Goldsmith**, and I launched DEP's new Leak Notification Program at the Douglaston Pumping Station in Northeast Queens. The launch completes initiative #4 in our strategic plan, and sets a new standard for the level and type of customer service that we can provide. In the past, private leaks could go undetected for up to three months, wasting water and requiring some customers to pay large, unexpected bills. Thanks to our investment in wireless meter readers, we now have near real-time information about water use at more than 600,000 properties throughout the city. That data allows us to establish a "normal" consumption pattern for each of our customers that we can use as a baseline to detect spikes that could be indicative of a leak. By proactively reaching out, we can save customers hundreds—and potentially thousands—of dollars, especially when you consider that a leaky faucet could cost nearly \$60 a month and a constantly running toilet could run a customer nearly \$2,000 a month!

We are already making a difference: yesterday we were joined by Flushing property owner **Lisha Li**, who we notified about a potential leak when the average water use at her property increased more than a factor of 12—from \$8 to \$100 per day. Ms. Li discovered a leak in her backyard and was able to have it fixed right away—thanks to the call she got from BCS. As the Mayor said, the Leak Notification Program is "just the latest example of how technology is making it easier for New Yorkers to monitor, and lower, their water bills," and we'll do more as we continue to deliver the Customer Service initiatives in our strategic plan. Special thanks to Deputy Commissioner **Joe Singleton**, Assistant Commissioner **Cecil McMaster**, and their teams for really hitting a homerun with this program. Read some of the follow up media coverage here.

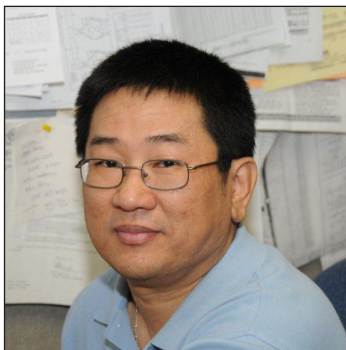
On Monday, I met with the Steering Committee for ABNY, the Association for a Better New York. ABNY is a non-profit organization created to bring New York City back to prosperity after the fiscal crisis in the 1970s. Now led by Chairman **Bill Rudin**, ABNY and its diverse membership is dedicated to the constant growth and renewal of New York City's people, businesses and communities. In addition to giving them a brief overview of DEP's core functions, I discussed our strategies to deliver clean water, clean air, clean energy, and a livable city for New Yorkers at a price they can afford. But to do that, we need to replace the adversarial enforcement paradigm that has become standard operating procedure for our regulators with a partnership approach that seeks to tackle the most serious environmental challenges that achieve the greatest public health benefits. Without this paradigm shift, cost-effective, transformative water quality initiatives like the NYC Green Infrastructure Plan simply won't be possible.

This afternoon, I spoke at the Building Owners and Managers Association of New York's (BOMA/NY) Energy Action Day, at the invitation of President **Edward Fallon**. Responsible for the ownership and management of approximately 400,000,000 square feet of office space, BOMA/NY represents more than 65,000 of DEP's commercial customers. The organization has dedicated an annual conference to energy efficiency and dealing with energy challenges since 1994. I explained how DEP is working to give our commercial customers better service through AMR and other investments, and talked about how we are treating energy as a strategic asset by developing our renewable energy resources, making smart efficiency investments, and moving aggressively to eliminate greenhouse gas emissions.

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.

Focus on the Field



conforms to DEP's rigorous environmental standards.

Never one to be content with sitting still all day, William enjoys the varied and unpredictable nature of his work. One day he might be down in the basement of a luxury high rise in Manhattan, while on another day he might be out at an industrial woodworking shop in Williamsburg. He's even been taken on a tour of the Bronx Zoo and Botanical Gardens after inspecting the zoo's new boiler. Despite these varied venues, boiler inspection fieldwork does have its share of potential risks. William points out that most boilers are located in poorly lit, difficult, and dirty spaces that can often be extremely hot and stifling. There are also overhanging beams and other obstructions that can pose potential safety concerns. Although he's often faced with challenging working conditions, William loves his job and knows that he plays an important part in ensuring the health of New York's environment. As William puts it, "we all breathe the same air whether we're rich or poor."

A CUNY graduate, William joined DEP in 1989 and earned his Professional Engineering license in 1995. When he's not at work, William enjoys spending as much time as possible with his four year old daughter. He's betting that someday she'll make a great environmental engineer!

One of DEP's most important environmental responsibilities is preserving and improving New York City's air quality through the regulation of potential pollution sources. A big part of that responsibility falls to employees like **William Chan**, a 20-year DEP veteran who works for the Bureau of Environmental Compliance (BEC) and provides critical field expertise as an Environmental Engineer. William is one of BEC's field inspectors responsible for reviewing permits for boiler installations and carrying out field inspections to ensure that boilers are operating in a safe and environmentally compliant manner. Each week, William travels into the field to inspect recently installed boilers. His first order of business is to run an efficiency test on the boiler to monitor CO2 output, potential smoke conditions, and proper exhaust ventilation. In addition, William checks to make sure that the boiler is sized correctly and

Press Box



"March brings the end of ice-fishing season, but it also marks the peak of ice-rescue season for authorities who patrol our waterways. That's why police officers from the New York City Department of Environmental Protection were jumping into the frigid waters of the Ashokan Reservoir on Thursday and pulling their comrades out." - Times Herald-Record [coverage](#) of the rigorous training DEP police officers undergo to ensure they can safely perform these heroic—and dangerous—rescues

Ask Cas

askcas@dep.nyc.gov

Q. During the cold snap we had this winter, I could swear my water at home was colder than usual. Does the water coming from your tap get colder when the temperature drops?

A. Yes, the temperature of your drinking water will vary with the outside temperature. There is a seasonal variability in the temperature of your drinking water. Drinking water is coldest during the winter and considerably warmer in the summer months. In 2010, the temperature for NYC drinking water ranged between 35°F all the way up to 75°F on the hottest days in the summer, depending on where the sample was collected in the distribution system.

(Air-ing on the Side of Caution for Health... continued)

said the unit, which conducts approximately 8,000 inspections a year, "was composed of a team of dedicated professionals who ensure that the necessary review of equipment complies with all air code rules and regulations, thereby helping to improve air quality for New Yorkers."

Like DEP as a whole, the Air Engineering Office works with a variety of different types of customers that range from large landlords to small business owners. One way DEP helps small businesses is through the agency's Economic Development Unit, which offers technical assistance with outreach and advice on how small businesses can achieve compliance and improve their operations.

Although continuous changes in the Air Code do not change the air engineering office's fundamental mission, they do require some flexibility in the levels or type of emissions that require permits. For example, new rules about perchloroethylene (a chemical that dry cleaners use and commonly known as "perc") will change where and in what buildings dry cleaners may be located in the coming years. The proposed changes to fuel oil use would also require a revised permit review to make sure that the elimination of less clean burning Nos. 4 and 6 oils—which create more soot pollution than all the cars and trucks in the city combined—has the intended effect of improving air quality and reducing carbon emissions.

Event Calendar

DEP Blood Drive

Lefrak, 6th floor training room: 3/15-3/17, 8am to 1:30pm; Sutton Park, 2nd floor: 3/10, 8:30am to 2:30pm; Downsville Fire Department: 3/9, 9am to 3 pm; Kingston, 51 Albany Avenue: 3/14, 1pm to 6pm; Grahamsville Parking Lot: 3/16-3/17, 10am - 3pm.

Please click [here](#) to see the memo from Commissioner Holloway.

Milestones

Congratulations to **James Pena**, BCS, who marks his 30th year with the agency on March 9.

NYC Simplicity Idea Market



Computer kiosks have been set up for BEC, BPS, BWS, BWSO, BWT, Fleet, and Facilities Management employees who work at remote DEP locations and/or in the field. Please follow this link [to see](#) where your nearest computer kiosk is.

Please remember to go to www.nyc.gov/ideamarket to share, vote for, and comment on ideas that will make this city better.

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