

# Buildingsnews

April 2019

[service notices](#)[forms](#)[bis](#)[codes](#)[jobs](#)

## DOB Launches Enforcement Sweep of Construction Sites Across NYC Ahead of Construction Safety Week



Construction Safety Week is May 6-10. Throughout the week, Department staff will visit construction sites in all five boroughs to promote safety by distributing multi-lingual site-safety materials and information on Local Law 196 compliance in an effort to reemphasize site-safety regulations, and the fact that no building is worth a life.

In April, three construction workers in New York City lost their lives in separate work-related accidents. In response to these incidents, the Department has deployed 90 inspectors throughout New York City to perform safety sweeps of construction sites, and educate workers about the importance of construction site safety. These construction inspectors, including those from the Department's newly created Construction Safety Compliance and Construction Safety Enforcement units, the Cranes and Derricks Unit, the Scaffold Safety Unit, and the Special Operations Unit, will promote construction site safety to protect both workers and the public. While performing these sweeps, DOB inspectors will issue enforcement actions if they observe safety violations, and shut down sites if they find serious safety lapses. This effort will hold accountable anyone in the construction industry who cuts corners at the expense of safety. During this sweep, DOB will be inspecting an estimated 5,000 construction sites. Work sites that are found to be unsafe for workers could face penalties of up to \$25,000 for construction safety violations.

[Read more in our press release.](#)

## Reminder: Local Law 196 Site Safety Training

## Service Updates

[Instructions to Remedy a Notice of Violation for Failure to File an Elevator Inspection and Test Report are Available](#)

[Local Law 158 of 2017: Restriction on Professionally Certified Filings](#)

[Local Law 158 of 2017: Doubling of Civil Penalties for Multiple Work Without a Permit Violations](#)

## 2014 Construction Code Updates

Update pages are printable inserts to keep your hard copy Construction Codes up to date.

All [update pages](#) for the 2014 NYC Construction Codes.

## Local Laws

Local Law 62 of 2019 ([Int. No. 862](#)) A Local Law in to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to allowing the Department of Buildings to issue stop work orders along with notices to revoke work permits.

Local Law 59 of 2019 ([Int. No. 353-B](#)) A Local Law to amend the administrative code of the City of New York, in relation to the provision of e-mail notifications for construction project status updates.

## Hearings + Rules

[All Department Rules](#)

## Buildings Bulletins

[All Buildings Bulletins](#)

## Website Updates

[NYC Construction Codes Amendment Index](#)

[Resolving Violations/Summonses: OATH/ECB](#)

## Overview of DOB NOW Presentation

### Licensing

Department Approved Course Providers

Department Approved SST Course Equivalent List

Registration Renewal: Class 1 Filing Representative

### Did You Know?

DOB is partnering with NYC DEP to provide New Yorkers with information about the ins and outs of stormwater construction permits. NYC DEP will be hosting webinars every Wednesday at 11am through June 5th. [Click here to register.](#)



Every worker who arrives on a work site deserves to come home at night, and DOB is reminding construction workers, demolition workers, and supervisors to obtain site-safety training, as required by [Local Law 196 of 2017](#), in a timely fashion. Construction and demolition workers on most construction sites are currently required to have a 10-hour OSHA safety-training certification. And when the next phase of the law goes into effect, workers will be required to have 30 hours of site-safety training, and supervisors will be required to have 62 hours of training.

Not only does site-safety training save lives, it is the law. The Local Law 196 safety training requirements can be met either with actively-proctored online training, or in-person training from DOB- and OSHA-approved course providers.

More information about the Local Law 196 site-safety training requirements [can be found on our website](#), and [in the recent Service Notice](#).

## Ninth Annual No-Penalty Deck and Retaining Wall Program



The ninth annual Department of Buildings No-Penalty Deck and Retaining Wall Inspection Program was launched on April 22nd. This 45-day citywide initiative allows New Yorkers to call 311 and request a free, no-penalty visual inspection of their decks, porches, and retaining walls, giving homeowners the opportunity to ensure that these structures are maintained in accordance with the NYC Construction Codes. Following the inspection, the Department will notify homeowners of the inspector's findings and whether or not the conditions observed pose an immediate safety hazard or warrant repairs. If immediate safety hazards are found, the Department will withhold the issuance of violations for a limited time, giving homeowners the opportunity to make corrective repairs.

New Yorkers can start calling 311 today to schedule a free, no-penalty inspection anytime between May 1 and June 15, 2019. Factors including weather and shifting soil can cause decks, porches, and retaining walls to weaken, deteriorate, or lean over time, and it is important that homeowners are diligent in making sure these structures are safe and code compliant in order to prevent potential accidents.

[Read more in our press release.](#)

---

## DOB LAA and Plumbing Units Present at 2019 License Renewal Course



DOB's Plumbing and LAA units represented the Department at the SUNY Empire State Plumbing Foundation of New York Construction Trades License Training Corp. 2019 License Renewal Course for Master Plumbers and Master Fire Suppression Contractors. Deputy Director of LAA Audits and Quality Assurance Ikumma Daniels and Assistant Chief Inspector for Plumbing Elias Katsihs gave presentations, and other members of DOB's plumbing and LAA units were on hand to provide advice and answer student questions during the event's Q and A session.

---

## Guilty Plea Announced in 2015 Unsafe Façade Incident

On April 26th, the Department announced that Esplanade Venture Partnership has pleaded guilty to two misdemeanor counts for criminal violations of the City's Administrative Code, for failure to maintain the building façade (exterior wall) of 305 West End Avenue, Manhattan. In 2015, pieces of the façade fell from the building to the sidewalk below which resulted in the death of a two-year-old girl and injury to her grandmother. DOB initially filed criminal charges against Esplanade in Manhattan Criminal Court in 2016, for failing to maintain their building, even after they were repeatedly warned of the failing condition of the building's façade. As part of the guilty plea, Esplanade was issued the highest fine allowed by law for the two charges, i.e., \$25,000 for each charge for a total of \$50,000. In addition, the managing agent of Esplanade Venture Partnership, Alexander Scharf, who was also charged, has agreed to pay \$5,000 in restitution to the City.

[See our press release for details.](#)

---

## Construction Worker Memorial





On Thursday, April 25<sup>th</sup>, DOB's Acting Commissioner Tom Fariello and Deputy Commissioner for Enforcement Tim Hogan attended the Construction Workers Memorial Mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral, memorializing construction workers killed or injured on worksites in New York City.

---

## Major Disciplinary Cases

- \$100,000 in total penalties issued to Western Specialty Contractors for several violations related to inadequate site-safety measures and operation of a hoisting machine without a permit at a construction site located at 149 East 125th Street, Manhattan. In this incident, a mini crane being used to install a glass curtain wall without proper tiebacks fell from the four floor and injured a worker.
- \$12,500 in penalties issued to Harlorn LLC, the owner of 849 Soundview Avenue, Bronx for failure to maintain an exterior wall due to the partial collapse of the building's parapet, which injured a member of the public.
- \$4,000 in penalties issued to Kreisel Co. Inc., the owner of 111 East 85th Street, Manhattan for a zoning violation due to a Privately Owned Public Space (POPS) that was found to be improperly maintained per the discretionary zoning agreement. The public plaza at the location was missing required plantings or signage. In addition, metal spikes had been improperly installed on areas meant for seating.
- Following an investigation by the Department, it was found that Professional Engineer and Qualified Exterior Wall Inspector Charles Marino had filed a number of false façade reports at six locations. The engineer agreed to a voluntary three-year surrender of all filing privileges and a permanent surrender of his privilege to file façade reports.
- Registered Construction Superintendent Marie Grasso was disciplined for using pre-signed construction logs at a worksite, and for exhibiting a pattern of failing to maintain proper logs as required by the Building Code. She agreed to pay a \$7,500 fine and two years of probation, effective March 22, 2019.

DOB publishes monthly bulletins detailing the agency's efforts to sanction and deter bad actors in the construction industry. You can find this information posted on the [Enforcement Action Bulletin](#) page of our website.

### Additional Disciplinary Actions & Voluntary Surrenders

### Industry Code of Conduct for Construction Professionals

---

## Sign up for Weather Advisories

---

## Follow DOB on Facebook and Twitter

Thomas Fariello, R.A. Acting Commissioner

[comments + suggestions](#)  
[unsubscribe](#)

