



NYC Department of Environmental Protection

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

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Environmental Health & Safety News for BWSO



"Staying alert and aware of other drivers and road conditions is the key to preventing accidents, but even the most cautious drivers may find themselves involved in a motor vehicle accident."

– BWSO EHS Staff



BUREAU OF WATER & SEWER OPERATIONS
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & SAFETY DIVISION

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SCREECH, BANG, CRASH! – Tips on what to do when you've been in a car accident.

For many BWSO employees, traveling around the chaotic streets of New York City can often be one of the biggest challenges they face over the course of their workday. Staying alert and aware of other drivers and road conditions is the key to preventing accidents, but even the most cautious drivers may find themselves involved in a motor vehicle accident. A DEP employee who gets into an accident involving a City-owned/City-provided vehicle must take the following steps:

At the scene of the accident:

- ✓ If possible, pull off to the side of the road, turn off the ignition, turn on the flashers and raise the hood.
- ✓ If the accident involves injuries or possible injuries to multiple parties, call an ambulance.
- ✓ Notify your supervisor immediately after the accident.
- ✓ Notify the police and provide all required factual information to investigating police.
- ✓ If the police do not arrive on the scene, review the vehicle registration of the

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OSHA Overhauls the Cranes and Derricks Construction Standard

The U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) recently issued an updated cranes and derricks construction standard, effective November 8, 2010. The substantial number of fatalities associated with the use of cranes and derricks in construction and the technological advances in equipment since the publication of the 40-year-old standard led OSHA to update the standard.

According to OSHA, this new standard will comprehensively address key hazards related to cranes and derricks on construction worksites, including the four main causes of worker death and injury: electrocution, crushed by parts of the equipment, struck-by the equipment/load, and falls.

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osha.gov

Did you know...



BWSO will pilot a new "EHS Matters" awards program!

See Page 3 to learn more.



WIN A DUNKIN' DONUTS
GIFT CARD!
TAKE QUIZ ON PAGE 3

Hungary's Toxic Sludge Spill – An International Catastrophe!



On October 4, 2010, an incident responsible for 9 deaths and more than 150 injuries occurred and is being described as Hungary's worst chemical accident. At an aluminum manufacturing plant in Ajka, Hungary, 264 million gallons of toxic sludge spilled from a containment reservoir. The sludge affected more than 100 square miles of countryside including the Danube River. The toxic sludge is a byproduct of the Bayer Process, the principal means of refining bauxite into aluminum oxide, otherwise known as alumina. During refining, a solution of superheated sodium hydroxide (a strong chemical base) was used to "wash" the alumina thereby converting it into an aluminum hydroxide. With the impurities filtered out, the process generated a "red mud" waste stream consisting of a caustic mixture of silica, iron oxide and heavy metals including arsenic, lead and mercury. Because sodium hydroxide was used as a wash, the sludge had a pH of between 10 and 13 making it highly corrosive.

What exactly is the sludge, and how hazardous is it to humans and the environment?

According to MAL Hungarian Aluminum, the company that owns the Ajka plant, about 40%-45% of the waste is iron-oxide which gives it the red color, 10%-15% is aluminum oxide, 10%-15% is silicon oxide and there are smaller quantities of calcium oxide, titanium dioxide and sodium oxide. Victims in affected areas have already suffered burns by the toxic sludge. Experts say the effects are more serious if the substance is ingested—the sludge can cause damage to lungs and the digestive system, and could prove fatal in some cases.

From an environmental standpoint, the sludge has severely impacted the Marcal River, which feeds the Danube River. Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban called the spill an "ecological tragedy," and shortly after the incident disaster officials reported that life in the Marcal River had been "extinguished."

How does this experience translate to the work we do at DEP?

Fortunately, BWSO operations do not generate the type or quantity of hazardous wastes described above. Hazardous waste streams typically generated at BWSO operations range from solid and liquid spill cleanup debris, off spec or unwanted chemicals, lead paint chips and chemical bulk storage tank rinse water. The DEP has established a robust Environmental, Health and Safety (EHS) program to protect worker safety and the environment and to meet compliance with the various federal, state and local laws that regulate hazardous substances. DEP's policies such as Hazardous Waste Management and Spill Prevention, Environmental Release Reporting and Investigation, establish detailed procedures for how to safely manage hazardous chemicals and wastes. For example, at several DEP facilities sodium hydroxide is often utilized as a means of treating the water. All caustic solutions are managed from delivery to disposal and are contained within sealed chemical resistant tanks. According to DEP's Spill Prevention Policy, facility Responsible Individuals must prevent spills by employing the following measures, as applicable:

- Use checklists to conduct pre-use/routine inspections of equipment including, but not limited to, vehicles, construction equipment, pumps, meters and storage tanks.
- Emphasize proper material handling and container storage inspection practices.

- Use manufacturer-recommended maintenance procedures (MPs) to develop in-house MPs for certain types of equipment or for activities where there is no adequate preventive maintenance (PM) schedule in place. If neither exists, the facility must develop equipment-specific MPs, when warranted.
- Use breakaway or quick-disconnect hoses and/or absorbent drip pads during product or fuel transfer and dispensing activities.
- Properly label valves and ports that transfer or receive chemical or petroleum products.
- Schedule replacement of damaged or old equipment.

The policy also mandates secondary containment processes to be engineered and in place to capture any unplanned discharges if they were to occur. Furthermore, if a spill occurs and if it exceeds the reportable quantity (RQ), it must be reported to the appropriate agencies; DEP Division of Emergency Response & Technical Assessment (DERTA), New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), and the National Response Center (NRC). Additional notification may be required to the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) and State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) of any local area and state likely to be affected by a spill of a hazardous substance in excess of the RQ.

For more information on DEP's environmental policies or if you have any questions about hazardous materials or hazardous waste management at your work location, contact EHS.



Sources: www.bbc.co.uk, DEP Hazardous Waste Management Policy, and DEP Spill Prevention Policy.

SCREECH, BANG, CRASH! – Tips on what to do when you've been in a car accident.

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other involved party and record the vehicle owner's name, address, sex, date of birth, driver license number and state of issuance; also record the names, addresses, sex and age of all other occupants in the vehicle(s).

- ✓ All accidents that occur between 6:30 AM and 5:00 PM must be reported within one hour of the incident to DEP's Fleet Services at 718-610-0712. After regular business hours call 718-DEP-24HR (337-2447).

Within 24 hours of the accident:

- ✓ Complete the MV-104 Supplemental Accident Reporting Form.
- ✓ A supervisor must complete the Supervisor's Supplementary Report of Motor Vehicle Accident.

Within 48 hours of the accident:

- ✓ Send originals of all required forms to Marilyn King, Vehicle Safety Coordinator at Fleet Services.
- ✓ Send copies to Paula Funez, BWSO Vehicle Coordinator.

For more information on the motor vehicle accident procedures described above, contact Marilyn King, Vehicle Coordinator – Fleet Services. Additionally, BWSO EHS will periodically schedule defensive driving courses for those employees who have been involved in one or more motor vehicle accidents in a City-owned/ City-provided car during the course of their workday.

Did you know... that Commercial Driver Licenses are regulated by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) within the United States Department of Transportation? The FMCSA was established in 2000 and its primary mission is to prevent commercial motor vehicle-related fatalities and injuries. To learn more about the FMCSA and the regulations that apply to you if you hold a Commercial Driver's License, visit <http://www.fmcsa.dot.gov>.

Source: DEP Vehicle Operator's Manual

OSHA Overhauls the Cranes and Derricks Construction Standard

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OSHA anticipates that this final standard will prevent 22 fatalities and 175 non-fatal injuries each year. Some of the significant requirements in the updated standard include:

- A pre-erection inspection of tower crane parts;
- Use of synthetic slings in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions during assembly/disassembly work;
- Assessment of ground conditions to ensure that the equipment is not used unless the equipment manufacturer's specifications for adequate ground support are met;
- Updated inspection requirements for shift, monthly, and annual inspections of the piece of equipment;
- Wire rope inspection requirements – inspections must be conducted during each shift, monthly, and annually;
- Formal qualifications for a signal person used during crane operations; and
- Power line safety.

Due to these updates, DEP will undertake a review of these regulations in the near future to determine if they impact Agency Crane and Hoist policy. Presently, the BWSO Operations that utilize cranes and hoists should follow DEP's current Crane and Hoist Policy, which follows OSHA General Industry Standard, 29 CFR 1910.179-180. Some of the key components of the DEP Crane and Hoist Policy that BWSO crane operators should be aware of are:

- ✓ Employees whose work requires them to operate, supervise, maintain, or inspect cranes and hoists



activities shall receive training that will provide them with the understanding, knowledge, and skills necessary for performing their assigned rigging and lifting work safely.

- ✓ If a hazard is observed during inspection or during use, lock out and/or tag "out of service" until a more detailed inspection is

- performed or the problem is corrected.
- ✓ Mobile cranes shall be level, placed on a firm footing, blocked properly (where necessary) and operated so as to be stable.
- ✓ Sling inspections shall be performed by a designated person prior to and during each sling use.
- ✓ Remove all defective equipment from service and destroy it to prevent inadvertent reuse.
- ✓ Plan and check the travel path to avoid personnel and obstructions.
- ✓ When moving a load, start and stop slowly and lift the load only high enough to clear the tallest obstruction.

Please remember that safety is the key when you are operating any type of crane. If you have any questions regarding the DEP Crane and Hoist Policy or the new OSHA Cranes and Derricks Construction Standard, contact EHS.

Source: OSHA.gov



"EHS MATTERS" AWARDS PROGRAM

With the upcoming new year, BWSO will pilot a new agency awards program— EHS Matters. This new award replaces the Serious about Safety (SAS) and Eyes on the Environment (EOE) awards, and will be an important part of the Agency's overall recognition program. "EHS Matters" award program will provide an efficient way to timely (within two weeks of the employee's nomination) recognize on-going employee dedication to the EHS program. An electronic nomination form will be emailed to facility supervisors. If you would like to nominate a colleague, request that your supervisor submits a nomination for that person. All nomination forms should be submitted to Karen Marino at kmarino@dep.nyc.gov.



UPCOMING TRAINING: December 2010 – January 2011

1. Office Right-to-Know
2. HAZWOPER Refresher Training
3. CPR Training
4. Water Plant Operator C.E.U.s:
 - Filtration Training
 - UV Disinfection Training
 - Watershed Protection Training
 - Respiratory Protection Training

Questions? Contact Nelson Leon at (718) 595-5544

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

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| <p>1. According to the DEP Crane and Hoist Policy, which type(s) of sling(s) must be tagged, marked and/or coded with the rated capacity?</p> <p>A) Wire Rope Sling
B) Synthetic Web Sling
C) Metal Mesh Sling
D) All of the above
E) B + C</p> | <p>2. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics' National Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries, in 2008 approximately _____ deaths a year result from transportation incidents.</p> <p>A) 850
B) 1,700
C) 2,100
D) 4,800</p> | <p>3. Sodium hydroxide is added to NYC drinking water to:</p> <p>A) help prevent tooth decay.
B) for its disinfection properties.
C) to raise the pH and reduce corrosivity.
D) to remove particulates.</p> |
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Answers for October 2010 Newsletter Quiz: 1) D 2) B 3) C



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*We'd love to hear
from you!*

E-mail us at:

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Sergeant Max Lambert DEP Police, 7th Precinct – Yonkers, NY



Sergeant Max Lambert joined the DEP in December 2001. He attended SUNY Rockland Community College where he graduated with an Associate Degree in Business Administration. Sergeant Lambert's responsibilities include supervising twelve DEP Police Officers, scheduling daily assignments, responding to routine and emergency calls, and participating in simulation drills during which issues are identified that may occur during a real incident. Max is also an instructor at the Police Academy located in Kingston, NY. He actively trains his fellow DEP Police Officers on various environmental equipment used to protect their own health and safety. Sergeant Lambert's main objective is to protect the NYC water supply system as well as the public's health and safety.

Q: Where are you from?

A: I was born in Manhattan and raised in Rockland County.

Q: Where did you attend school and what did you study?

A: I attended SUNY Rockland Community College where I earned an A.A.S. in Business Administration.

Q: Any hobbies or interests? What do you do in your spare time?

A: I enjoy all sports, staying physically fit and enjoy spending time with my ten year old son.

Q: What made you choose a career at the DEP?

A: Being a DEP police officer allows me to protect the environment while working in an administrative setting as well as out in the field.

Q: Prior to working at the DEP where did you work?

A: I worked for the New York State Thruway Authority in West Nyack. Prior to that, I served six years active duty status for the U.S. Army.

Q: What did you learn from your prior experiences?

A: I learned to work effectively with others and how to prioritize my workload.

Q: What is your current job title and your responsibilities/role at the DEP?

A: I am currently a Patrol Sergeant in charge of twelve officers on the B-line (7:00 AM – 3:00 PM shift) at the 7th Precinct (Yonkers, NY). I am also an instructor at the Police Academy located upstate in Kingston, NY. As a Patrol Sergeant, I schedule daily assignments, oversee the precinct's needs in terms of equipment and supplies, answer emergency calls as well as routine calls and supervise my officers.

Q: When was the DEP police established? About how many DEP police officers are there?

A: The DEP police was established in 1907. There are seven DEP precincts— the main headquarters (Eastview Command Center) is located in Valhalla, NY. At the moment, there are about 180 DEP police officers.

Q: What types of EHS duties have you participated in?

A: The DEP police conduct confined space rescues, and secure the perimeters and perform accountability checks for all the individuals on the compound when there is a spill or chemical release. We are also a major component of Hillview Reservoirs' Emergency Action Plan (EAP). We are responsible for gathering and directing all the individuals on the compound to the assembly area, setting up the command post (where individuals from different departments discuss how to best handle the situation), setting up a staging area, and contacting the local Police, Fire Department, EMS, and EHS. Within the precinct, we update our MSDS binders, check the fire extinguishers monthly, and calibrate equipment when

due for service. Also if there is available manpower, the DEP police assist with open hydrants, emergency calls (e.g. water main breaks), and even traffic control for DEP work zones.

Q: What EHS training have you received?

A: I have received confined space training, and annually receive my EHS Awareness training. I also have in-service training on special equipment detecting chlorine and radiation. Once trained on the two meters, I trained my fellow DEP police officers at my precinct on how to use and calibrate the meters.

Q: When does DEP police work together with EHS?

A: The DEP police and EHS work together when there are simulated drills; chemical leaks or rescues. After the simulation drill is performed, there is a discussion by the different parties involved in the drill to resolve any issues that were identified.

Q: What are your qualifications?

A: Recruits attend the DEP Police Academy (in Kingston, NY), where recruits learn to become police officers as well as learn environmental aspects (i.e. water systems, infrastructures, and chemicals being used at DEP facilities) to fulfill our mission statement— to protect the water supply from terrorism, pollution, and crime.

Q: What are some specific strategies used to ensure the safety of our water supply?

A: DEP police constantly patrol and check the facilities to see if anything is out of the ordinary, whether it be an unidentified individual on the property, vehicle checks, or open gates— we investigate them all. Additional security includes security cameras, barriers, and fences.

Q: What do you enjoy the most about your current job?

A: I enjoy the different challenges that come before me every day. I also enjoy working with the people in the community (Yonkers and Bronx).

Q: What was the most memorable experience and/or most challenging part you have encountered during a job?

A: My most memorable experience was, and still is, being an instructor at the Police Academy— teaching new recruits and watching them develop into professional officers.

Q: Have you achieved/met your career goals and if not, how satisfied are you in your career?

A: I have not met my career goals but I am very satisfied with my career. As a Sergeant and having been at the DEP Police for nine years, I feel as if I'm moving along at a good pace.

Q: Do you have any final words of wisdom, mottos or advice you would like to share/ what was the best advice given to you?

A: If it's not an emergency situation, take your time when making a decision and think outside the box.