



**Environmental
Protection**

Michael R. Bloomberg, Mayor
Carter Strickland, Commissioner

WEEKLY

PIPELINE

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Oakwood Beach Heroics and Round the Clock Repairs Restore Wastewater Treatment



As Hurricane Sandy rolled in last Monday, DEP staff at facilities around the city completed final storm preparations including sandbagging, relocating equipment and double-checking emergency generators. At the height of the storm surge the Oakwood Beach Wastewater Treatment Plant, that is located on the east side of Staten Island, was completely surrounded by water. The staff on-site were trapped inside but continued working to keep the plant operating while protecting the critical infrastructure.

Overnight, the facility lost power and staff used emergency generators to continue operating the plant. This meant that staff had to manually clean the jammed influent screens that were con-

tinuously becoming clogged with sand and debris from the storm. Thanks to the hard work of the Oakwood Beach staff, the plant continuously provided primary treatment before, during, and after the storm and prevented approximately 80 million gallons of untreated wastewater from being discharged into New York Harbor or from backing up into homes.

“Despite significant obstacles, our dedicated staff at facilities across the city have worked tirelessly to get our wastewater treatment system back up and running,” said Deputy Commissioner **Vincent Sapienza**. “Thanks to their hard work, over the last week we have made significant repairs to our plants and pumping stations and are currently treating 100% of the city’s wastewater.”

Commissioner’s Corner

Last week, New York faced one of the most significant threats in our history, as Hurricane Sandy caused a record high water level of 13.88 at the Battery in southern Manhattan at 9:24 p.m. on October 29 and sustained winds of over 50 m.p.h. and gusts over 70 m.p.h. I would like to thank the thousands of DEP employees who worked before the storm to prepare our facilities and throughout the storm to address flooded roads and to operate our wastewater treatment plants. Over the past eight days, DEP employees have been at the forefront of relief efforts. DEP response teams have worked around the clock restoring our facilities, clearing debris, dewatering public buildings, and aiding other utilities in order get power back to millions of New Yorkers. DEP employees have also volunteered their time to assist at evacuation centers and food distribution sites and have provided safe drinking water at Water-On-the-Go fountains in areas without power. Many of you also had



to contend with a lack of heat, hot water, and electricity at home, and endure long commutes, traffic restrictions, and dwindling gas tanks to come to work. Thank you for your dedication to public service.

Pipeline will continue to update employees on the tremendous work that DEP employees are doing across the agency. Please feel free to share your photos and stories with us at Newsletter@dep.nyc.gov.

Spotlight on Safety

Hurricane Recovery and Clean Up:

Be Aware of Hidden Hazards!

As we work to assess hurricane damage and make repairs to DEP facilities and our own homes, it is important to be aware of potentially hazardous conditions. DEP Operations has coordinated with EHS Staff and advise that employees take extra care to be aware of the following when doing any recovery related work:

- High winds, rain and flooding can compromise structures. All building elements, equipment, and utilities should be carefully inspected for damage, cracks, loose or missing parts and leaks.
- Only walk and work in areas with standing water if you have received a safety briefing first. Standing water may present hazards including submerged holes, pits, equipment or sharp objects. Standing water can also be contaminated with sewage, petroleum or other haz-

ards. Proper PPE must be used. Consult with your EHS Staff or OEHS if you have questions.

- Once standing water is gone, work areas should be inspected for other signs of water damage. All porous, water damaged materials should be removed as soon as possible. This includes porous floor and wall coverings, ceiling tiles, furnishings and files. One of the most important ways to prevent mold growth is to take steps to disinfect the remaining non-porous areas and aggressively dry the affected areas with fans or blowers within 48 hours. You should consult with FMC, your facilities coordinator or EHS as needed.

Any Questions about recovery safety? Call your EHS representative or contact OEHS 718-595-5266 or ehs@dep.nyc.gov.

Click here for more information on Hurricane recovery Safety:

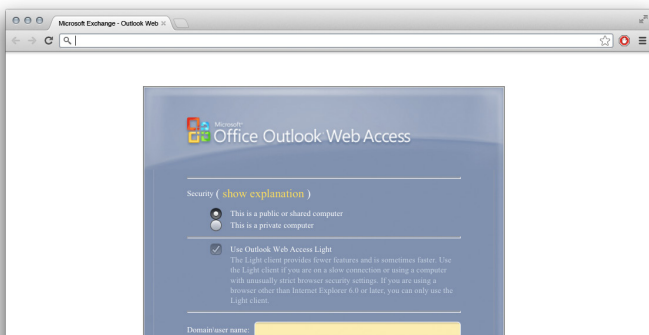
At DEP, everyone is responsible for safety. If you or anyone on your team is concerned about your working conditions, it's okay to ask your supervisor or your bureau's EHS liaison how they can help. If you've still got questions, you can call the EHS Employee Concerns Hotline. It's DEP's responsibility 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.

Water-On-the-Go



During the last week, DEP deployed 13 portable Water-On-The-Go fountains to locations in Lower Manhattan and the Rockaways, including several in Breezy Point. These neighborhoods lost power during Hurricane Sandy which left many residents without water. We have given away more than one thousand 1-liter bottles which allow residents to take water back to their homes and had countless more visitors stop by for a drink or fill up even larger buckets. This past weekend the fountains in the Rockaways were operating from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. and the fountains in Breezy Point continue to operate this week.

Did You Know



...all DEP email users can access their email from any computer or web-enabled smartphone outside of our network through DEP Webmail?

Go to: <https://depwebmail.nyc.gov/owa>. Then you will be prompted to enter:

- Your **Domain\user name**: The domain is "ds" followed by a backslash \. If, for example, your DEP email username is jsmith, you would enter **ds\jsmith**
- Your **password**

Task Force Chipper and Operation Godwin



Fifteen BWS employees normally stationed in the watershed, along with two heavy equipment operators from the Delaware County Department of Public works, arrived in New York City last week to aid in the recovery from Superstorm Sandy. Task Force Chipper—named for their chainsaws and tree chippers—joined thousands of other City employees to clear trees and debris from residential streets in Queens while Operation Godwin—named after their industrial size pumps—pumped out flooded basements, electrical rooms, and tunnels in some of the hardest hit areas. Task Force Chipper cleared 2.5 miles of roadway, including 30 downed trees in a four block stretch in Jamaica Estates, to aid in Con Edison's efforts to restore power. Operation Godwin used 6" pumps to remove the water that had flooded Manhattan's Battery Underpass, a Department of Education Facility in Queens and sewage pumping stations in Brooklyn.

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"The entire team has been overwhelmed by the public's appreciation, especially when the entire community has been uprooted," said **Eric Kight**, Logistics Chief Project Manager. "Our team has been welcomed with high fives, smiles, and hand-shakes. The community's support and praise for our efforts has only further motivated and encouraged us to carry on during this worthy mission."



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