

Welcome Aboard!



Last week, 63 new Sewage Treatment Workers attended orientation and received an overview of the department from First Deputy Commissioner **Steve Lawitts** and Deputy Commissioner for Organizational Development **Diana Jones Ritter**. This week they will complete safety training and over the next month they will begin hands-on training at Bureau of Wastewater Treatment facilities. We hope everyone will join us in welcoming them to DEP!

Jchristopher Azarias, Anthony Berardi, Richard Bergen, David Bovenzi, Joseph Bullard, Brendan Byrne, Osborne Canterbury, John Coffey, Andrew Cohen, Joseph Cotton, Tomaso Cottone, Michael DeMartini, Joseph Dengate, Michael Des Armo, Dylan Dojillo, Patrick Edwards, Eric Fedele, Daniel Gagliano, Steven Galindo, Saul Garcia, Joseph Garibaldi, Gregg Glazer, Joseph Gonzalez, Michael Hangan, Brian Hayes, Selvin-Anthony Henry, Kevin Howell, Maged Ibrahim, Stavros Ioannidis, David Janosek, Patrick Kenniff, Faroud Khan, Gaetano Lamaruggine Jr., Garth Lenetsky, Jason Lewin, Andrew Lignowski, Dominick Lollo, Courtney Lynch Sr., Jose Melendez, Shafied Mohammed, Michele Pallotta, Michael Percia, Fernando Pesantes, Anthony Petrone, Michael Radano, Bradley Reed, Curtis Reid, Rodolfo Remon, David Romano, Ravi Rudall, George Sanchez, Gustavo Silva, Matthew Spiewak, Devon Stennet, Robert Stonebridge, Mark Strassel, John Vega, William Warren III, Jerome Watson, Denholm Wong, David Yulfo, Kostiantyn Zagrebin and Ireneusz Zdunczyk.

Spotlight on Safety

Safety by Committee

Though not mandated by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, many states require safety committees and some offer reduced Workers' Compensation premiums for employers who establish such committees. The membership of an effective safety committee is made up of employees that reflect the organization's size, complexity, and operations and each member should bring unique perspectives to committee meetings. The best committees are designed to support the health and safety goals of an organization, motivate interest and participation in the organization's safety program, and improve trust and communication between management and workers.

The advantages of a safety committee include:

- Involving more people in the overall safety and health management of the organization.
- Opening up new lines of communication between employees who normally do not get the opportunity to work together.
- Providing people with a broader base of safety knowledge through rotation of assignments, which can build the safety culture in the organization.

Safety committees are not only limited to a centralized committee within an organization. Having multiple committees is a great way to involve more workers in an organization's safety and health efforts. More information on the benefits of safety committees can be found [here](#).

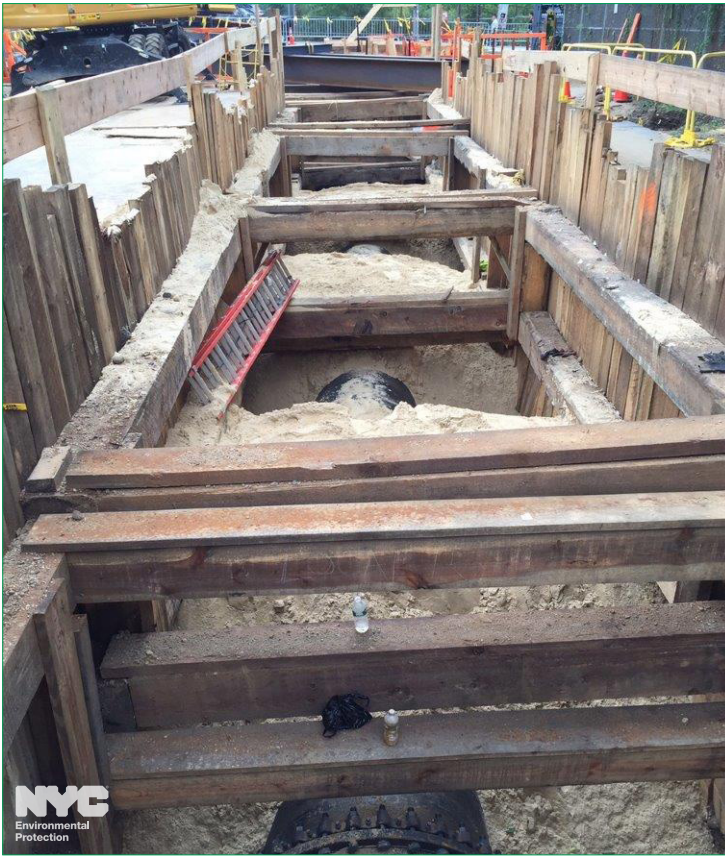
Watershed Firefighting



Brushfires can threaten the health of the forests that surround and protect New York City's reservoirs and earlier this summer the DEP Police completed aerial firefighting training and can now be called into service for brushfires both in and around the watershed. In this photo, DEP's helicopter "Air 6" is making water drops using a "Bambi Bucket", which holds up to 120 gallons of water and weighs approximately 1000lbs. A "FireSock" can also be attached to the bottom of the bucket in order to improve coverage and suppression capabilities. There are two types of drops. The first, called a static drop, occurs when the helicopter hovers over a specific area and releases the water. This is used to concentrate the water in one spot. The other type, called a running drop, occurs when the helicopter makes repeated moving drops in succession to contain the spread of the fire line.

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.

The Sun Doesn't Set on This Work



In early August, the roadway collapsed at the intersection of 64th Street and 5th Avenue in the Sunset Park neighborhood of Brooklyn. The Bureau of Water and Sewer Operations (BWSO) quickly mobilized staff from its Water Distribution, Repair and Construction divisions and took immediate action to cordon off the area, shutdown a 48-inch water main that runs through the collapse, and back-fill the hole to stabilize the area. Since then, work has continued around the clock as utilities in the area of the collapse were carefully relocated, including National Grid gas lines, Con Edison electric feeder cables and Verizon telecommunications, and the existing 48-inch water main was removed. Steps were also taken to ensure pedestrian access for local businesses and to accommodate an MTA bus route on 5th Avenue. Recently, a new 48-inch main has been installed and supports and braces for the pipe will allow for continued excavation to inspect the manhole and sewer line in the work area. This is an incredibly intricate repair and we thank our colleagues in BWSO for all of their hard work.

Welcome Aboard – Part Two!



Yesterday, 16 new employees attended orientation and received an overview of the department from First Deputy Commissioner **Steve Lawitts** and Deputy Commissioner for Organizational Development **Diana Jones Ritter**. We hope everyone will join us in welcoming them to DEP!

Elizabeth Brown with ACCO; **Ellen Obenshain** and **Brad Zambri** with BEDC; **Mohammed Ansari**, **Anna Azarova**, **Sherri Frazier**, and **Larry Huang** with BWSO; **Obaid Junaid**, **Anastasiya Lanis**, **Hyo Lee** and **Artesia Reddick** with BWT; **Noel Anderson**, **Shana Holberton**, **Benjamin Mandel** and **Isabel McRae** with the Commissioner's Office; and **Michael Siegel** with Executive Support.

Mark Your Calendar



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR PAPAL VISIT: The City of New York is preparing to host Pope Francis from September 24 to 26 and volunteers are needed to help direct and assist attendees at various locations throughout the City during the visit. If you have an interest in volunteering, you may [sign-up here](#). Supervisory approval is required if your volunteer time occurs during your regularly scheduled shift. If you have questions, please direct them to your Bureau Administrator.

SEPTEMBER BLOOD DRIVE: To help ensure that blood will be available to those who need it, DEP is hosting a blood drive in Kingston at 51 Albany Avenue on 9/21 from 1pm to 6pm.

FLU VACCINATION: DEP employees will have the opportunity to receive a free flu vaccination at Lefrak Headquarters 6th Floor Lecture and Training Rooms on the following dates: 10/2, 8am to 4pm; 10/5, 11am to 2pm; and 10/7, 8am to 4pm. For additional information, please contact ralfieri@dep.nyc.gov.

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