



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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**NEW YORK CITY OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
ANNOUNCES SHRINKING OF 'FROZEN ZONE' AND DETAILS
BUSINESS OUTREACH EFFORTS**

The City's Office of Emergency Management (OEM) continues to coordinate the inter-agency response to the steam pipe explosion on Lexington Avenue. Several City agencies including the Fire Department, the Police Department, the Office of Emergency Management and the Departments of Environmental Protection, Buildings, Health and Mental Hygiene and Small Business Services continue to operate on scene. They are joined by the Mayor's Community Assistance Unit, New York City Transit and the American Red Cross.

The following is an update as of 9:30AM, Saturday July 21, 2007:

Frozen Zone

The frozen zone, in which all pedestrian and vehicle access is restricted, has been reduced. The boundaries are now East 40th to East 42nd Streets and the eastern edge of Park Avenue to the western edge of 3rd Avenue. Lexington Avenue between East 42nd and 43rd Streets, which had previously been closed, is now open to pedestrians and business owners. The reopening of the area is a result of diligent efforts to clean and inspect streets and properties within the zone.

- To assist in their efforts to reopen, today the City will be allowing access to business owners on the north side of 42nd Street whose businesses were previously in the frozen zone. Access will be limited and business owners should bring proper identification.
- Restrictions are no longer in place from East 42nd Street to East 45th Street.

The City is moving quickly to reduce the frozen zone. Third Avenue was entirely reopened to pedestrians and traffic on Friday, July 20th. Vanderbilt Avenue and Grand Central Terminal were entirely reopened on Thursday, July 19th.

Road closures

Road closures are still necessary to facilitate cleanup and utility work. Roadway restrictions are:

- Lexington Avenue from East 39th Street to East 46th Street
- Park Avenue (Northbound at street level only) from East 40th Street to East 42nd Street
- East 42nd Street from 3rd Avenue to Madison Avenue
- East 40th and 41st Streets from 3rd Avenue to Park Avenue
- East 42nd to 44th Streets from 3rd Avenue to Lexington Avenue, except for local deliveries

Business outreach efforts:

The Department of Small Business Services' Business Outreach Team will be on site when businesses re-enter their establishments to help them reopen and will be providing emergency loans to businesses. SBS and OEM will be coordinating with the Grand Central Partnership to address any issues that may arise for businesses as they reopen.

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