

Commissioner's Corner

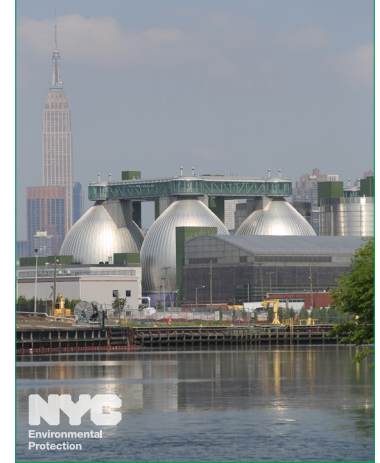


The first volume of DEP's official newsletter, Weekly Pipeline, was published on January 5, 2010, and today marks the 400th edition! Over the years, Pipe-

line has grown into an essential communications tool for important topics such as employee safety, while also allowing us to celebrate some of our significant

accomplishments and milestones together. It serves as a vehicle for highlighting employees who have gone above and beyond in their work to protect public health and the environment, and those employees who perform important tasks that are behind the scenes and not often appreciated as much as they should be.

Since 2010, we have activated the \$3.2 billion Croton Water Filtration Plant, the Manhattan portion of City Water Tunnel No. 3 and the Ultra-Violet Light Disinfection Facility; completed a \$5 billion upgrade to the Newtown Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant; invested \$1 billion in our wastewater treatment plants to reduce nitrogen discharges into local waterways; initiated the \$1 billion repair of the Delaware Aqueduct, including all of the necessary support projects that will allow us to shut down the Aqueduct to complete the work; regularly collected samples of water for testing throughout the upstate supply and in-city distribution systems; completed regular checks of all critical infrastructure to ensure the security of our systems; navigated New York harbor for regular water sampling and sludge vessel trips; repaired fire hydrants and water mains, cleaned catch basins, sewers and Rain Gardens, built Bluebelts and continued our award winning watershed protection programs to maintain our criti-



cal Filtration Avoidance Determination. All of that, and much more, has been regularly chronicled in the Weekly Pipeline.

I'd like to thank our deputy commissioners for contributing guest columns in their area of expertise, our Office of Environmental Health and Safety for their regular Spotlight on Safety column, and DEP staff across all bureaus for working hard all year long to provide us with wonderful material to promote. I'd also like to thank our Communications team for their work in producing the Weekly Pipeline, including Deputy Commissioner **Michael DeLoach, Ted Timbers, Adam Bosch, Doug Auer, Angel Roman, Tara Deighan, Kristen Artz, Girma Moges, Leah McWilliams, Kerri Grinnage, Carl Ambrose, Abdul Jabbar and Jaunita James.**

Spotlight on Safety

National Preparedness Month

September is [National Preparedness Month](#)—in part because high winds, thunderstorms and flooding are more common during this time of year. This year, the overarching theme is "Disasters Don't Plan Ahead. You Can." Emergencies can happen at any time. Most recently, Hurricane Harvey has affected the Houston area and other locations in Texas and Louisiana. The loss of human life and massive amount of property damage caused by Harvey serves as a reminder that we should all be prepared and have a plan.

When severe weather hits New York City and its watersheds, DEP employees often work tirelessly, before, during and after the events. [DEP's Emergency Planning Policy](#) outlines programs for developing, updating,

and maintaining emergency action and response plans. To be prepared in an emergency, facilities should follow these steps:

- train employees on emergency action and response plans
- maintain an updated list of key personnel and their telephone numbers
- practice evacuation drills at least once a year
- have a plan in place to account for personnel following an evacuation

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) offers several resources to help workers prepare for, stay safe during and recover from severe weather events and natural disasters. For more information, visit [OSHA: Emergency Preparedness and Response](#).

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.



Donate to Hurricane Harvey Relief

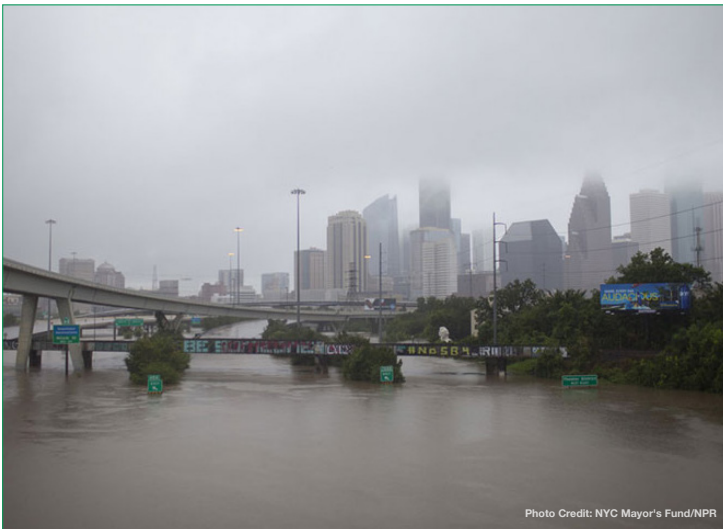


Photo Credit: NYC Mayor's Fund/NPR

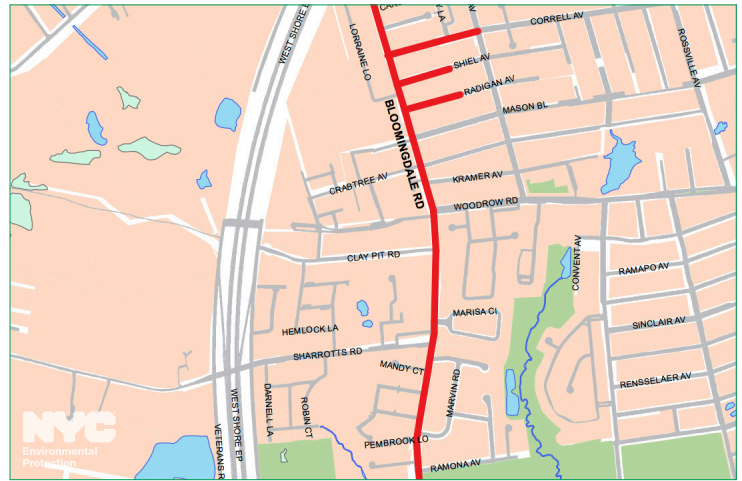
In response to the on-going devastation caused by Hurricane Harvey, **Mayor Bill de Blasio** and Speaker **Melissa Mark-Viverito** announced that employees of the City of New York are now able to directly donate a portion of their paychecks to hurricane relief efforts. The funds will be distributed to organizations working on the ground—such as National Volunteering Organizations Active in Disaster, American Red Cross, and The Salvation Army—to provide critical relief to individuals, families, and communities that have faced the brunt of this terrible storm. The Mayor's Fund is also accepting donations from all New Yorkers via its website. One hundred percent of proceeds raised will be directed to Harvey relief efforts to support the 6.6 million people who have been impacted in Houston and the surrounding areas. Over the next two months you may select the portion of your paycheck you'd like to donate and make either a one-time, tax-deductible contribution or make a recurring donation for the next two months. To make a donation, please visit the online payroll service [NYCAPS Employee Self Service](#) or ask for help from your payroll advisor. If you are unable to access NYCAPS Employee Self Service, please contact your payroll officer or [donate directly](#) through the Mayor's Fund to Advance New York City.

Updated Rules Aim to Help Air Quality

DEP has announced a number of [new initiatives and updated rules and regulations](#) aimed at improving air quality and making compliance easier for property owners and businesses. This includes an updated one-stop online system for information and required registration of certain equipment, additional compliance testing options for portable generators, new emissions control requirements for wood or coal burning stoves in food establishments, and equipping enforcement staff with wireless tablets to quickly upload inspection reports. This builds upon the City's successful effort to phase out the use of Number 6 heating oil, the dirtiest and most polluting oil. As of December 31, 2015, all 5,300 buildings that were using Number 6 oil had switched to a cleaner burning fuel, which modeling shows will prevent 210 premature deaths and 540 hospitalizations each year. These improvements will make compliance easier for New York City's property owners and businesses.

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

Sewer Upgrade for Staten Island



A [\\$15 million infrastructure project](#) to upgrade storm sewers, sanitary sewers, and water mains along Bloomingdale Road in Staten Island has been completed three months ahead of schedule. More than 6,700 linear-feet of new storm sewers and 82 new catch basins were constructed to create additional capacity in the drainage system and help alleviate street flooding between the Korean War Veterans Parkway and Veterans Road. The upgrade included 3,500 linear-feet of new sanitary sewers that will allow a pre-school, two businesses and ten private residences to discontinue the use of their septic systems, which can be troublesome to maintain. While the roadway was open to install the sewers, 7,920 linear-feet of cast iron water mains were replaced with new, more reliable ductile iron piping, ensuring that the area will have a reliable supply of water for the future. The project also included installation of ADA-compliant pedestrian ramps, new sidewalks, a curb-to-curb restoration of the roadway, the planting of 125 trees and 1,500 shrubs and herbaceous plants, and added a new Bluebelt component in Clay Pit Ponds Park to naturally filter stormwater.

DEP Police Rescue Red-Tailed Hawk



DEP Police Officer **Wendy Mattson** helped rescue a red-tailed hawk while on patrol last week along Cannonsville Reservoir. When Officer Mattson discovered the hawk, it appeared dazed and was unable to fly. She contacted a local rehabilitator, arranged transport for the raptor, and the bird is now receiving medical care thanks to her quick response.