

Commissioner's Corner



This past weekend's historic snow storm dumped more than 30 inches of snow on parts of New York City and, as always, DEP employees stepped up to the challenge to ensure that our critical services continued without any major interruptions.

In addition, some employees assisted the Department of Sanitation (DSNY) with the effort to clear public roadways and others staffed the Office of Emergency Management's Operations Center. Across the five boroughs and throughout the watershed, DEP

employees demonstrated their commitment to serving the nine million New Yorkers who rely on us each day.

In the watershed, the Bureau of Water Supply made operational changes to reduce any potential impacts the high winds could have on water quality at Kensico Reservoir. In the city, water quality staff braved difficult driving conditions and huge drifts of snow to ensure that samples from the city's distribution system were gathered and tested. Bureau of Water and Sewer Operations (BWSO) crews from Distribution and Water Operations also worked through the storm. From Friday night into Saturday morning Operations worked to repair a leak on a 12-inch water main on West 36th Street in Manhattan while additional crews from Operations partnered with Distribution to flush water mains in upper Manhattan after an emergency shut-down disturbed the delivery system. At the wastewater treatment plants and pumping stations, crews from the Bureau of Wastewater Treatment worked around the



clock helping to protect the health of our waterways, and numerous personnel, including support from the Transportation section, helped clear snow at DEP facilities and supported DSNY citywide plowing operations.

At all levels of the agency, DEP employees demonstrated that we are prepared to deal with any emergency and ensure we continue to serve our customers. Again, thank you to everyone.

Spotlight on Safety

After the Storm

We all know that there are serious safety concerns when working outside in the winter, especially after a snowstorm. These hazards can result in slips and falls, frostbite, hypothermia, and vehicular accidents. By following simple winter weather safety guidelines, you can help to avoid serious physical harm.

- to prevent slips, trips, and falls, clear walking surfaces of

snow and ice, and spread salt

- use caution while shoveling snow and take frequent breaks in warm areas
- wear proper footwear with visible treads
- brush/scrape snow and ice off all windows, mirrors and lights on your assigned vehicle prior to driving

For more information, visit OSHA's Winter Weather [website](#)



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.

NYC Water Challenge to Restaurants



Last week, DEP announced that the 2015 New York City Water Challenge to Restaurants resulted in a savings of more than 2.5 million gallons of water. Over the past year, each of the participating restaurants worked closely with DEP to audit their water use, replace or retrofit inefficient water using appliances, and eliminate costly leaks. Le Bernardin and Perilla achieved the best results, dropping their annual consumption of water by more than 20 percent, while Etcetera, Etcetera and Marc Forgione cut their consumption by more than 15 percent. Landmarc, Kum Gang San, and Russo's on the Bay reduced their water use by more than 10 percent while Mancelleria also surpassed the 5 percent goal. In aggregate, the restaurants conserved nearly 2,600,000 gallons of water and saved up to \$10,142 on their annual water and sewer bills. DEP also recently introduced the new [Restaurant Manager's Guide to Water Efficiency](#), which contains water conservation advice in topic areas ranging from low-cost retrofits and equipment replacement to staff education. The guide is a result of lessons learned from each challenge participant and will be distributed to restaurants throughout the five boroughs in an effort to replicate the success of the New York City Water Challenge to Restaurants. For more information, click [here](#).



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

Holiday Photo Contest



For the 2015 holiday season, Organizational Development and Human Resources (OD&HR) hosted the first annual Most Creative DEP Holiday Photo Contest. DEP employees were encouraged to take a team-based, festive, and fun picture of their bureau, unit, or group holiday celebrations. After careful deliberation, OD&HR is happy to announce that the winning submission came from Records and Archives Management. Congratulations! Click [here](#) for more details.

Welcome Aboard!



Yesterday, 27 new employees attended orientation and received an overview of the department from First Deputy Commissioner **Steve Lawitts**, and Deputy Commissioner for Organizational Development and Human Resources **Diana Jones Ritter**. We hope everyone will join us in welcoming them to DEP!

Elisa Velazquez with ACCO; **Victoria Chau, Leona Dias, Victor Eskenazi, Cindy Phu** and **Imacula Suraredjo** with BCS; **John McLaughlin, Joseph Milazzo, Jeff Napoleon, Christopher Robles** with BEC; **Constance McLeod** and **Gemma Osuji** with BEDC; **Abdulai Fofanah** with BEPA; **Kemal Babajanov, Deborah Fremder**, and **Antonia Pereira** with BLA; **Alexander Cummings** with BWS; **Amanda Bauner, Nicola Farina, Pooja Jagtlan, Iesha Leigh, Jennifer Rodriguez**, and **Tisheeka White** with BWSO; **Mehul Dhru** with BWT; **Gregory Mitchell** with CDBG; **Michael Kim** with Commissioner's Office; and **Shailana Thomas** with Executive.