



The New York State primary election this year is on **THURSDAY, September 13th**. Voting is central to our democracy. It is an essential way for you to directly participate in and shape the future of our city, state and country.

Polling locations are open from 6:00 AM – 9:00 PM on election day. To find your assigned poll site or check your registration status, visit voting.nyc or call 311.

I hope you will join me in casting your vote on **THURSDAY the 13th**.

Sincerely,
Vincent Sapienza, Commissioner

Spotlight on Safety

Legionellosis

Legionnaires' disease and Pontiac Fever are collectively known as Legionellosis, a disease caused by Legionella bacteria. Legionnaires' disease is a type of pneumonia that is caused by ingesting or inhaling high concentrations of legionella bacteria in water and Pontiac Fever is a less serious infection with milder symptoms similar to the flu. While Legionnaires' can be serious, especially for those with existing health conditions, it is treatable with

antibiotics. Transmission is not spread by person to person contact, nor by regular use and operation of NYC's water supply infrastructure.

Outbreaks of Legionnaires' disease are sometimes the result of improper maintenance of cooling towers and air conditioning systems; or when a system has been dormant and then started up without proper disinfection. Water fountains,

(Continued on next page)

Special Guest Commissioner's Corner



Paul Rush
Deputy Commissioner
Bureau of Water Supply

The storms that saturated our watershed this summer broke records. In August, parts of our watershed received more than 300 percent of their normal rainfall. That resulted in some reservoir basins getting nearly one-third of a typical year's rain in about 30 days.

Based on 90 years of water-supply data, August 2018 is now the wettest August on record. The effect of that record rainfall is shown in the chart below, which shows normal runoff for August and the actual total runoff for each of our six reservoirs in the Cat/Del System this August.

The storms caused the reservoir system to refill. At its peak the system was 101.7 percent full on Aug. 19. As a result, DEP has been making large releases of water to the rivers and creeks downstream of our reservoirs. These releases, paired with the water we're sending to customers in the City, are intended to draw the reservoirs down. A number of interstate agreements and protocols call for some reservoirs to aim for a target storage of less than 100 percent during much of the year.

Our wet summer underscores the amount of unpredictability that comes with operating our vast water supply. More wet weather and uncertainty lies ahead. On Monday our watershed received several inches of rain from the remnants of Hurricane Gordon. Our DEP meteorologists and operations staff are also closely tracking Hurricane Florence, which is forecast to hit North Carolina later this week and potentially deliver some moderate rainfall to the watershed next week.

These periods of unusually wet weather can be challenging for BWS. Our operations staff need to carefully track storms and adjust valves on short notice. Instrumentation experts venture high into the mountains or knee-deep into streams to fix the weather stations and gauges that send us vital data in near-real time. Our scientists track how these storms affect water quality in our reservoirs, ensuring that we send the best-quality water to the City at all times. And the workers who operate our seven wastewater treatment plants upstate often work extra hours to ensure their plants can adjust to the additional inflow from heavy rainstorms. I want to thank all of them, and many others in the bureau, for helping us operate smoothly no matter the weather.

Reservoir	Actual Aug. Runoff (BG)	Normal Aug. Runoff (BG)
Cannonsville	35.9	15.6
Pepacton	43.6	14.1
Neversink	13.7	5.3
Rondout	8.2	3.8
Ashokan	34.7	11.8
Schoharie	38.7	10.8

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](https://www.nyc.gov/pipehelp). HELP IS ON THE WAY.

(Spotlight on Safety...continued)

misters, showers, heat exchangers, and whirlpool spas are also places the bacteria can develop. The legionella bacteria grow in stagnant water and disperse by droplets expelled by the systems during operation or start up.

DEP personnel who are tasked with working with HVAC equipment or inspecting cooling tower meters should always follow best management practices, including the following:

- Avoid inspecting cooling tower meters at positively identified locations until the source of the outbreak has been properly addressed/cleaned
- Before inspecting cooling tower meters, request records of towers' inspection, cleaning, disinfection dates, any sampling and test results, system maintenance/monitoring dates and work description/results.
- Wear N-95 dust masks and gloves for inspecting cooling tower meters
- Use good sanitary practices such as washing hands and face

For additional information, visit [OSHA's website](#).

Welcome Aboard!



Yesterday, 41 new employees attended orientation and received an overview of the department from **Commissioner Sapienza** and HR Specialist **Grace Franco** (not pictured). We hope everyone will join us in welcoming them to DEP!

Persida Diaz with ACCO; **Chika C. Amasiani**, **Andrew K. Chao**, **Raphael T. Dungca**, **Megan E. Furrelle**, **Joshin George**, **Niha J. Habul**, **Rupal Metha**, **Bahaa M. Nasser**, **Stephany Paredes-Mesa**, **SM Mizanur Rahman**, **Arzu Shahrin**, **Antonio A. Sosa**, **Iryna Stashuk**, **Agnes L. Strain** and **Jason Yao** with BEDC; **Juaquin K. Bennett**, **Else F. Casado** and **Imran Khan** with BWS; **Najeeb S. Abubakar**, **Jacqueline A. Christian**, **Mohamed H. Eldaly**, **Praveen Rammohan**, **Mohammad A. Saeed**, **Timothy Yee** and **Maggie T. Harper** with BWSO; **Jameel Baksh**, **Ian L. Charles**, **Meng Shan Chen**, **Cory C. Dechalus**, **Jacques B. Douge**, **Robert A. Edwards**, **Lateef A. Franklin**, **Thomas Janis**, **Koffi Onipoh**, **Carl H. Ramkirpal**, **Kudura Robinson** and **Chinaswamy Subrayan** with BWT; **Mitchell J. Paluszek** with OD&HR; **Aaron I. Ordower** with Sustainability; and **Christopher P. Scheftic** with Police & Security.

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

Racers Paddle Across Schoharie



Schoharie Reservoir was featured in the New York Adventure Racing Association's challenging The Longest Day event. Over the span of 24 hours, from 7 a.m. on Sept. 1 to 7 a.m. on Sept. 2, competitors biked and navigated their way through the rugged hills, rivers, streams and trails of the Catskill Mountains, including paddling in kayaks in a loop around the Schoharie Reservoir.

Cease the Grease Outreach



DEP's Cease the Grease teams canvassed more than 250 homes in Sheepshead Bay, Brooklyn, during the three-day Labor Day weekend, spreading awareness among customers about how cooking oil poured into a drain clogs pipes in the home and city sewers. The proper disposal of grease helps avoid sewage backups, expensive repairs, and unnecessary disruptions to residences and businesses. Thanks to **Eva Lynch** and **Denise Hubbard** from BPAC for their outreach efforts!

Please Donate to Blood Drive

In remembrance of 9/11, DEP is partnering with the New York Blood Centers to help provide the gift of life and maintain the community's blood supply. Donors with an O-negative blood type, or "universal donors," are especially urged to give because their blood can be transferred to anyone. Remember to eat and hydrate before you donate and don't forget to bring your donor ID card.

[Blood drives](#) will be taking place at the below locations and times—

Lefrak: 6th Floor Training Rooms, 9/12 and 9/13, 7:45am to 1:45pm;
Kingston/Catskill Area: 51 Albany Avenue, 9/17, 10:30am to 5:30pm;
Downsville Region Area: Downsville Fire Hall, 9/12, 9am to 2pm;
Schoharie Area: Grand Gorge Civic Center, 9/14, 2pm to 6pm;
Grahamsville Region: Grahamsville Fire House, 10/19, 10am to 3pm.