

Tribeca Water Main Repairs



DEP has been working around the clock since last Friday's tragic crane collapse in lower Manhattan to inspect the structural integrity of the water mains and sewers in the vicinity of the accident and make any needed repairs. Led by the Bureau of Water and Sewer Operations, and with support from the Bureau of Water Supply and Hazmat, temporary repairs have been completed and water service was fully restored this afternoon.

Spotlight on Safety

Safety State of Mind

DEP employees take pride in their ability to perform their tasks safely and efficiently. However, there is such a thing as overconfidence and it can be dangerous to you and your coworkers because it can undermine established safety procedures. In fact, experienced workers may not even recall near misses that almost resulted in serious injuries due to overconfidence. Here are ways to think with a safety state of mind:

- stay aware of hazards

- remain alert and focus on doing the job safely
- follow the recommended safe work practices and do not take short cuts
- don't be afraid to speak up about potential unsafe acts

Experienced workers have a responsibility to set a good example for new employees. Do things the safe way, because someone may be watching and learning from you! Never let overconfidence compromise your safety. For additional information visit [Safety Tool Box Topics](#).

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.

Commissioner's Corner

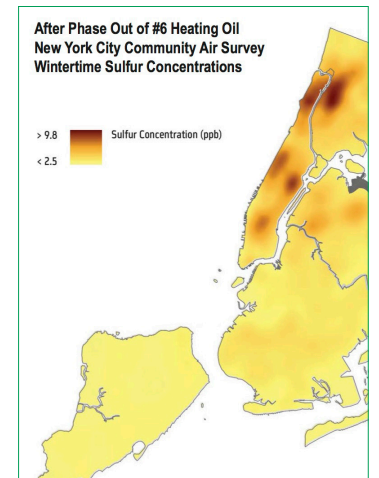
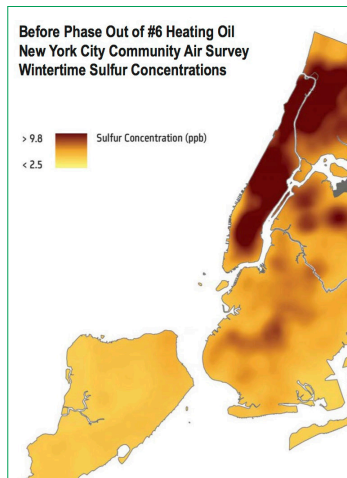
Today, I joined with Mayor de Blasio to announce that all 5,300 buildings in the city that were registered as burning No. 6 heating oil in 2011 have converted to a cleaner fuel as of December 31, 2015. This is a tremendous accomplishment for the department and means New Yorkers are breathing significantly cleaner air today than they were just a few years ago. In fact, modeling shows that the conversions to cleaner burning fuel will prevent 210 premature deaths and 540 hospitalizations each year. I'd like to recognize the tremendous work done by the Bureaus of Sustainability and Environmental Compliance—and specifically the Air Engineering and Air Enforcement groups—that ensured the conversions were made in compliance with the law.

No. 6 oil contains the highest level of sulfur of all fuels commonly used for heating, and burning it emits sulfur dioxide and greater amounts of particulate matter and nitrogen oxide than cleaner fuels. The phase-out began under the Bloomberg Administration and as all 5,300 buildings have now switched to a cleaner burning fuel, there has been a substantial reduction in air pollution. Neighborhoods with the highest density of boiler conversions—such as northern Manhattan, northern Queens, and the South Bronx—saw the greatest improvement in air quality with the greatest proportion of health benefits occurring in vulnerable, high poverty areas. In addition, the heating oil conversions have



reduced citywide greenhouse gas emissions by an estimated 800,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent.

Ground-level air quality surveys taken by the New York City Department of Health in 2008-2009 showed that heavy heating oil was one of the most serious sources of local air pollution in the city. DEP permits the use of large boilers in the city and almost all use either natural gas, No. 2, No. 4, or No. 6 oil as fuel. Working closely with environmental groups and the real estate industry, in 2011 DEP promulgated new rules which phased out the use of No. 6 heating oil by 2015. Since then, DEP enforcement staff have conducted nearly 4,000 inspections, issued more than 2,000 Notices of Violation and 162 Cease and Desist Orders to ensure buildings were making the required conversion. In addition, the NYC Clean Heat Program helped more than 4,800 of these buildings convert off of No. 6 oil by helping owners access financing to cover the costs. To learn more, click [here](#).



Gilboa Tunnel Boring Machine



Last week, a new micro-tunnel boring machine (MTBM) arrived at Schoharie Reservoir to prepare for the construction of new release works near Gilboa Dam. The new MTBM is one of the most technologically advanced micro-tunneling machines ever built. The unmanned machine was constructed to include many features that are common in larger, manned, full-size boring machines. This includes a gyroscope navigation system that ensures the MTBM is staying true to course, a camera in the crushing chamber to ensure bedrock in front of the machine is being adequately crushed, and custom seals to withstand 5 bars of pressure—roughly twice the pressure of an average car tire. The machine will be assembled at the surface and tested during the spring and summer. It will then be used to drill a tunnel, roughly 2,120 feet long and 9.5 feet in diameter, that will allow DEP to release water downstream from Schoharie Reservoir into Schoharie Creek. The reservoir currently does not have a permanent release works. The new release works, which will cost \$142 million to construct, were a requirement of the permit that allowed DEP to rebuild Gilboa Dam. Once the release tunnel and its associated valves are completed, DEP will have the capability to release water from the reservoir to facilitate dam maintenance, respond to potential emergencies, and mitigate flood risk for downstream communities.

Valentine's Day Digester Egg Tour



This past Saturday, nearly 300 people took part in the 5th annual Valentine's Day tour of the Digester Eggs at the Newtown Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant in Greenpoint, Brooklyn. Newtown Creek is the City's largest wastewater treatment facility and since 2012, hundreds of couples and others celebrating Valentine's Day have visited the plant to learn about New York City's water supply and wastewater systems. This year, demand for the tour was so high that registration filled up in less than three hours! The tour began at the facility's Visitor Center, where Plant Superintendent **Zainool Ali** provided an overview of the wastewater treatment process, including details about how the Newtown Creek Plant will soon be the first in the nation to purify biogas into renewable natural gas which will heat nearly 5,200 homes and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by more than 90,000 metric tons each year—the equivalent of removing nearly 19,000 cars from the road. Superintendent Ali then led participants to the observation deck of the plant's iconic stainless steel digester eggs, where they had the opportunity to take photos, ask questions, and enjoy a scenic view of the Manhattan skyline. For more information about Digester Egg Tours at Newtown Creek, visit our [website](#).

Welcome Aboard!



Yesterday, 26 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!

Danilo Djuretic and **Kimberly Gallman** with ACCO; **Genine Chavis**, **Ashanti Feemster**, **Sharhonda Ridgeway**, **Jahrus Simmons**, **Talisha Summers** and **Delicia Williams** with BCS; **Curtrissa Babb** with BEDC; **Erin Morey** with BEPA; **Pricilla Acosta**, **Amina Andrews**, **Gregory Balbi**, **Irina Dopson**, **John Duncombe**, **Shamecka Morrison**, **Biren Patel**, **Shiv Ramharack** and **James Schiavo** with BWSO; **Riad Aslan**, **Shawn Carmody**, **Stephen Hryckowian**, and **Thomas Ortiz** with BWT; **Samuel Man** with Comm. Office/Sust; **Matthew Butler** with CDBG; and **Lamont Richardson** with FDC.

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