

Water-On-the-Go Makes a Splash in the Heat

With the summer heat on its way, Commissioner Strickland's launch of the third season of Water-On-the-Go (WOTG) yesterday at Brooklyn Bridge Park came just in time. DEP's Water-On-the-Go fountains provide safe, clean NYC Water at popular destinations throughout the five boroughs by hooking up portable drinking water fountains to fire hydrants. The program would not be possible without the support of Bureau of Water and Sewer Operations' field staff that set up and break down the fountains each day. Last year, WOTG provided NYC Water to more than 200,000 drinkers—and with a hot summer on its way, the numbers for the 2012 season should exceed last year's remarkable totals.



In addition to showcasing NYC's water supply, which is world renowned for its great taste, the program provides an opportunity for the Water-On-the-Go staff to educate New Yorkers about its high quality; DEP conducts more than 1,000 tests each

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Spotlight on Safety

National Safety Month: Week 3 - Slips, Trips, and Falls

In the United States, slips, trips, and falls are the major causes of general industry accidents, and cause roughly 15% of accidental deaths. They are second only to motor vehicles as a cause of fatalities.

At DEP during fiscal year 2012, slips, trips, and falls made up 30% of total recordable injuries. Although our DEP EHS data show a 25% decrease in the number of these incidents from 2011 to 2012, there were still 198 incidents of slips, trips and falls in 2012.

To address this issue, management in a number of DEP operational areas are currently engaged in reviewing operational area jobs where slips, trips and falls are a potential hazard. While most of the incidents occurred while performing job related tasks, two incidents occurred in a kitchen pantry where water was left on the floor.

Employees can and should take the necessary steps to safeguard themselves and their co-workers from these types of accidents. Controlling slips, trips, and falls would seem to be a fairly obvious exercise, but the simple avoidance steps are often ignored by employees: keeping walkways and stairs free of debris; coiling up extension cords, lines and hoses when not in use; and mopping or wiping up after spills are just a few steps we can all take to reduce these injuries. If you see a condition that you cannot personally address, promptly notify your supervisor and take steps to safeguard the area until the slip/fall hazard can be permanently addressed.

For additional information visit OSHA's page on Walking/Working Surfaces [👉](#), and NSC's page on Slips, Trips and Falls [👉](#).

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

Summer is here, and there's no better time to be in New York City and take advantage of all the terrific outdoor programs available to residents and visitors alike. However, while enjoying the summer months, it is important that New Yorkers remain mindful of how to stay safe and healthy as the temperature climbs.

Heat illness is serious, and while vulnerability is greatest among the elderly and the very young, DEP's employees—especially our field crews—should take extra precautions. For the first time this season, heat is expected to reach severe levels by tomorrow. DEP will join **Mayor Bloomberg**, the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, and the Office of Emergency Management to help inform New Yorkers of the importance of taking precautions during extremely high temperatures. DEP employees and others who can't avoid being in the sun should wear lightweight, light-colored clothing that covers as much skin as possible, wear a hat to protect the face and head, and use sunscreen (at least SPF 15) to protect exposed skin. Residents should consistently use an air conditioner if they have one, or visit a cooler place such as an air-conditioned store, mall, museum, movie theater, or one of the hundreds of cooling centers operated by the City during extreme heat. Above all, New Yorkers are encouraged to seek shaded or cooler areas and drink plenty of water and avoid beverages containing alcohol, caffeine, or high amounts of sugar.

Yesterday, DEP made NYC Water more easily available outdoors than ever by launching Water-On-the-Go for the third consecutive year. Department of Health and Mental Hygiene Commissioner **Dr. Thomas Farley**, Chief Digital Officer **Rachel Sterne**, Department of Parks and Recreation First Deputy Commissioner **Liam Kavanagh**, Brooklyn Bridge Park President **Regina Myer**, and the PlaNYC "Birdie" all joined me at Brooklyn Bridge Park for the launch event. In addition to kicking off the Water-On-the-Go season, we announced the creation of a new mobile application to help iPhone and iPad users locate Water-On-the-Go fountains throughout the city, and a promotional water



bottle giveaway for Water-On-the-Go visitors who Check-In at our fountains using Foursquare. We've doubled the number of regular locations since last year, with more than 20 stations available throughout the five boroughs to help New Yorkers keep cool and hydrated even on the hottest summer days. At a penny a gallon, NYC Water is roughly 1,000 times less expensive than bottled water. I thank our Agency partners for joining me at the announcement, and the hard-working DEP staff who have helped get the program off the ground. Thanks to **Eileen Alter**, **Kim Seiler**, **Eva Lynch**, and **BWSO** field staff who set up the fountains all summer, NYC Water is now available to more drinkers than ever before.

DEP staff represented the agency well in another field two weeks ago—in this instance, an athletic one. North River Wastewater Treatment Plant's **Michael Leone**, **Joseph Riccardi**, **Justin Manfredi** and **Bill Sedutto**—competing as the Harlem Pump Trotters—competed in the statewide Operations Challenge contest in Buffalo after winning the citywide competition in May. Spending their own free time to practice at least twice a week, the Pump Trotters represented New York City and dethroned the Long Island Brown Tide, a squad that had reigned as champions for seven straight years. In a test of skill, speed, and communication strategy, they showcased the skill and talent of the nearly 6,000 DEP staff who provide one billion gallons of drinking water and treat 1.3 billion gallons of wastewater every day. Congratulations to the New York State Operations Challenge Champion Harlem Pump Trotters, who showed why DEP is truly the home of a champion workforce.

Focus on the Field



During the last seven years, **Joseph Acosta** has been a DEP inspector and has been the eyes, ears, and at times even nose for the agency. He is on the front lines for the Bureau of Environmental Compliance in helping New Yorkers with air and noise issues. Although he covers both areas, he finds that noise complaints account for 75% of his follow-up enforcement work, with air and odor complaints making up the rest. Based in Manhattan, Acosta has handled complaints in all of New York's five boroughs. As he sees it, "It is especially rewarding to help people solve their problems and to get offending violators of the Air and Noise Codes into compliance." By issuing notices of violation, complaints can be corrected.

For noise complaints, Acosta has dealt with construction sites, bars, dance clubs, and barking dogs. He also answers complaints from "circulation devices," which include exhaust

fans, air conditioning units, and compressors.

On the air front, Acosta has encountered a restaurant with an inadequate or faulty duct system and visible smoke from a poorly maintained boiler. Acosta has also been part of the "Stop Idling" campaign, a recent enforcement crackdown to improve air quality that prohibits vehicles from idling in school zones for more than one minute. The campaign coincided with Asthma Awareness Month in May, and sought to minimize emissions that contribute to harmful air pollutants. The program prioritizes improving the air New Yorkers breathe near elementary schools in neighborhoods that have the highest asthma rates.

Acosta goes through rigorous training every six months, as do all of his fellow inspectors, in opacity testing. This is a curriculum which trains DEP personnel to assess the various stages of smoke conditions from sources around the city. As a new inspector, Acosta attended the DEP noise training course to become certified in using a noise meter and to enforce various provisions of the Noise Code that require sound level readings. A new schedule will be put in place to provide a refresher noise course to all inspectors about once every other year.

Outside of his DEP work, Acosta enjoys being with his wife **Kirsy** and their two sons **Brandon** and **Alex**.

Out of the Archives



Photo from June 18, 1912 showing the lower gate chamber of the Catskill Aqueduct Headworks, which were a labyrinth of sub-surface tunnels and chambers equipped with valves, sluice gates, and operating equipment. They release water from the Ashokan Reservoir into the Catskill Aqueduct and can route millions of gallons of water each day. The lower gate chamber is on the downstream side of the

dam and regulates the special aqueducts that take water directly into the screen chamber. Fine debris are captured and removed in the special aqueducts before entering the Catskill Aqueduct. The lower special aqueduct is capable of draining either reservoir basin back into the stream in case of unacceptable water conditions. The water could also be diverted from the lower gate chamber into the aerator basin where it went through aeration, a process that killed waterborne organisms by exposing them to oxygen but which is no longer used.

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

(Water-On-the-Go Makes a Splash in the Heat... continued)



day to ensure that New Yorkers have the best water available. The fountains also reduce purchases of bottled water or other beverages. NYC Water is a healthy alternative to sugary soft drinks, containing zero calories, zero sugar, and zero fat: a typical 12-ounce can of soda contains about 150 calories and the equivalent of 10 teaspoons of sugar. Sports drinks, marketed as healthy alternatives, have as many calories as sugary beverages and usually contain high levels of sodium.

This summer, the drinking fountains will be regularly available in all five boroughs for the first time and will be out every day except Mondays through Labor Day weekend. DEP will now rotate fountains among more than 20 different locations around the city, including the High Line in Manhattan, the Staten Island Mall Greenmarket, and the Jackson Heights Greenmarket in Queens. Click here [for a full list of fountain locations](#).

DEP staff will also be able to educate New Yorkers about a new iPhone/iPad mobile app to help them access the daily Water-On-the-Go program schedule. The app is free and available for download at the iTunes Store. Water-on-the-Go visitors

can also "Check-In" at fountains using the Foursquare social media platform. While supplies last, visitors who check-in at a Foursquare enabled Water-On-the-Go station regularly (three or five times, depending on the location) will have the opportunity to win a free reusable NYC Water bottle, and those with the most "Check-Ins" will be declared "Mayor" of the Water-On-the-Go station. You can also keep up-to-date with Water-On-the-Go buzz by following @NYCWater on Twitter or liking NYC Water on Facebook.

DEP Press Office intern **Avital Mandil** staffed the Water-On-the-Go fountain at yesterday's launch event. "People were really interested in seeing that the schedule for the fountains was available on various social media sites," Avital said. Especially when they learned they can get a NYC Water bottle by checking in with Foursquare!"

If you are interested in volunteering your time to help spread the word about great-tasting, healthy NYC Water, email WOTG@dep.nyc.gov. And if you see a fountain in your neighborhood—please stop by, say hello to the staff, and enjoy the refreshing taste of the best drink on tap!

Milestones

Congratulations to the following employees: **Audrey Diamond**, BEDC, 38 years of service; **Monica Roth**, ACCO, 38 years of service; **Arthur Ross**, HRA, 35 years of service; **Karen Gross**, BEDC, 35 years of service; **Step Barclay**, OIT, 34 years of service; **Robert Chasan**, BWT, 34 years of service; **(Frias) Elsa Badia**, BWT, 32 years of service; **George Marino**, BWT, 32 years of service; **Andrew Moss**, OEA, 32 years of service; **Edward Hayes**, BCS, 32 years of service; **Catherin Sturm**, BWT, 31 years of service; **Bruce Mak**, BWSO, 31 years of service; **Thomas Marrama**, BWSO, 31 years of service; **David Ventura**, BCS, 31 years of service; **Margarita Dubovoy-Cheney**, BEDC, 31 years of service; **Gilbert Santiago**, BWSO, 31 years of service; **Frank Stumbo**, BWT, 31 years of service.