

N'ice Landing



The Bureau of Wastewater Treatment's fleet of sludge vessels operate seven days a week in order to protect public health and ensure the cleanliness of local waterways. Although icing of the waterways is relatively rare, February was a challenge and the Bureau enlisted the assistance of tug boats and altered some schedules in order to make their pickups and deliveries. In this photo, the Rockaway can be seen docking alongside the Owls Head Wastewater Treatment Plant in Bay Ridge, Brooklyn.

Spotlight on Safety

Colorless, Odorless Cold Weather Danger

Carbon Monoxide (CO) is a toxic gas that is both colorless and odorless, which makes it extremely dangerous. CO poisoning is more common during the winter months because heating systems can leak or fail. This is especially true if the heating unit is not clean, is in a room that is poorly ventilated, or the chimney is even partially blocked.

Symptoms of CO poisoning include headaches, dizziness, drowsiness, nausea, vomiting and tightness across the chest. These symptoms can easily be confused with those of the flu, and people may fail to realize it is carbon monoxide poisoning. If you or a colleague experience these symptoms, get to fresh air immediately and seek medical attention. Severe poisoning can cause neurological damage, coma and even death.

Exposure to carbon monoxide can be avoided by taking the following safety precautions;

- have your heating system, water heater and any other gas, oil, or coal burning appliances serviced by a qualified technician every year
- install a battery-operated CO detector in your home and change the batteries when you change the time on your clocks
- never use generators indoors or in garages and if used outdoors, place a considerable distance from windows or vents
- when using space heaters ensure that they are in good working order

For more information visit the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](http://www.cdc.gov).

Commissioner's Corner

According to the National Weather Service, February 2015 was the third coldest on record with an average temperature around 24 degrees. In fact, last month came up just 3 degrees short of a record of 19.9 degrees, set in 1934. DEP employees from almost every bureau work outdoors, in all types of weather. From ensuring the quality of water in our reservoirs, to protecting watershed lands, to responding to leaking service lines or water main breaks, removing snow to keep DEP offices and yards open, to navigating icy rivers to transport sludge, to dewatering facilities, hundreds of you work in tough conditions to fulfill our mission of protecting public health and the environment by supplying clean drinking water, collecting and treating wastewater, and reducing air, noise, and hazardous materials pollution. Today's edition of the Weekly Pipeline is dedicated to the hard work of the men and women who braved the record cold last month to serve our 9 million customers. Here is a snapshot of some of their efforts.



Snow Patrol



DEP Police Officer **Giuseppe Multari**, from the 4th Precinct patrols the Ashokan Dam. DEP's Police Division was established more than 100 years ago and is charged with protecting the city's water supply system, which includes more than 2,000 square miles of watershed land across nine counties, hundreds of miles of tunnels and aqueducts, 14 wastewater treatment plants, laboratories, and chlorination facilities. DEP Police patrol the watershed by foot, bicycle, all-terrain vehicle, motorcycle, boat, aircraft, and even snowmobile.

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.

Clearing Downsville Dam



Watershed Maintainer **David Ruff** clears snow from the access road across Downsville Dam. During winter, watershed maintainers have the difficult task of clearing snow from all DEP's facilities upstate—including access roads, parking lots, wastewater treatment plants, dams, and chambers that house water supply infrastructure. This work, which is critical to maintaining safe access to key facilities, often subjects them to the cold and wind for long periods of their work day.

Ensuring High Quality Water



Water Quality Scientist **Christopher Johnson** navigates a frozen snow bank to collect drinking water samples in Queens last week. New York City is one of only five large cities in the country permitted to run a largely unfiltered drinking water supply, due in large part to the City's comprehensive watershed protection programs. DEP performs more than 1,000 daily tests of the city's drinking water taken from nearly 1,000 sampling locations throughout the five boroughs. This is in addition to the 225,000 tests performed annually throughout the watershed.

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

Winter Water Quality Sampling



Water quality scientists **Sharon Satterly** and **Andrew Payne** ventured out onto Kensico Reservoir, near Shaft 18, to perform routine maintenance on a robotic monitoring buoy. Scientists like Satterly and Payne are often called on to brave the cold and collect required samples from reservoirs, even when they are partially covered in ice.

Queens Repair to the Rescue



BWSO Supervisor **Michael Little**, and laborers **Larry Williams**, **Dante Turpin**, and **Sherlan Isidore** respond to a reported water condition on 112 Street between Astoria Blvd and Northern Blvd yesterday. The Queens repair crew excavated and discovered a circular split on an 8-inch water main. Battling temperatures in the 30s, the crew installed a stainless steel clamp over the split to repair the leak and backfilled and resurfaced the excavation site.

March Blood Drive

The Greater New York Blood Program is experiencing a serious shortage due to a fall-off in donations during the frigid month of February. To help ensure that blood will be available to those who need it, DEP is hosting blood drives at the below locations and times.

Grahamsville Region: United Methodist Church, 3/4 and 3/5, 10:00am to 3:00pm; **Kingston / Catskill Area:** 51 Albany Avenue, 3/9, 1:00pm to 6:00pm; **Lefrak:** 3rd Floor Cafeteria, 3/10 - 3/12, 7:45am to 1:30pm; **Downsville Region Area:** Downsville Fire Hall, 3/11, 9:00am to 2:00pm; **Kensico / Highland Regions - Sutton Park Area:** Sutton Park - 2nd Floor, 3/12, 8:30am to 2:30pm.