

Holiday Toy Drive - Thank You!



Many thanks to everyone who donated this year to the Holiday Toy Drive. Your generous contributions were greatly appreciated. Over 600 toys were collected at Lefrak and distributed to Maimonides and Montefiore Medical Centers. Thank you for helping to make the holidays a little more joyful for your neighbors.

Spotlight on Safety

OSHA's Top 10 Most Cited Violations

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration published its Top 10 Most Cited Violations for Fiscal Year 2015 and the list may appear similar to last year's. However, according to OSHA, change is happening behind the scenes. One year ago, OSHA began collecting additional data from employers on amputations and hospitalizations. In September, OSHA announced it will begin using a weighted system based on how complicated an inspection may be, placing greater value on complex inspections. OSHA continues their efforts to minimize high-hazard threats and encourage employers to be proactive in order to avoid being cited for one of the "Top 10" violations.

The Top 10 for Fiscal Year 2015 are:

1. Fall Protection - General Requirements
2. Hazard Communication
3. Scaffolding
4. Respiratory Protection
5. Lockout/Tagout
6. Powered Industrial Trucks
7. Ladders
8. Electrical - Wiring Methods
9. Machine Guarding
10. Electrical - General Requirements

Let's use this list as a reminder of hazards we should avoid in our daily operations. For more information, visit the [Safety & Health Magazine's website](#).

Commissioner's Corner



One of the real joys of the holiday season is the opportunity to say thank you. I want to express my gratitude to each of you for the continuous dedication and hard work that you bring to DEP and New York City residents daily.

May you enjoy peace, happiness, health, and prosperity in the coming year. On behalf of myself and the extended DEP family, we wish you and your loved ones a safe and wonderful holiday season and a Happy New Year!

Season's Greetings!

Emily Lloyd, Commissioner
NYC Department of Environmental Protection

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.

The Grinch House



When DEP acquired a steep 112-acre hillside to protect water quality in Pepacton Reservoir two years ago, the property came with this interesting bit of architecture. The building—affectionately known as the Hobbit House or Grinch House—was snugly built into the hillside by the Caswell family. A skilled craftsman constructed the little home of rough-hewn boards, quirky windows, tile floors and a cedar shake roof. It's heated by a wood stove and once pulled electricity from a tiny wind turbine that was also on the property. The building's floors, roof, and windows include practically zero 90-degree angles—but it does provide a great view of the hamlet of Roxbury, which is located in the valley below. (The Caswell family lived in a more conventional house down the hill.)

Since acquiring the structure, which is not habitable in its current condition, DEP has been in talks with our partners at the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference, which might be interested in rehabilitating the house for its outreach and environmental programming in the Catskills.

The Source - Year in Review

As the year comes to a close, we would like to remind everyone about the vast wealth of information available via [The Source](#). Over the past year, several improvements have been made to maximize the site's utility. To access The Source, simply type "portal/" into your preferred web browser.

The Source's homepage lists important agency announcements, including the most recent edition of DEP's weekly Pipeline newsletter, and profiles on the Agency's spotlight projects.

The Source also provides valuable information about the agency's various bureaus and offices. These unit pages store popular documents and forms, data dashboards, and unit FAQs. In particular, our DEP colleagues have worked tirelessly over the past year to overhaul the following unit pages:

- [Fleet Services](#)
- [Facilities Management and Construction](#)
- [Office of Engineering Audits](#)
- [Records and Archives Management](#)
- [Office of Strategic Sourcing](#)
- [OEHS' Workplace Violence Prevention Page](#)

Make sure that you explore the Employee Resource Center, as well as the "Applications," "Projects," "Events," and "DEP Resources" tabs to discover the full range of initiatives happening throughout the entire Agency. You can also send your feedback to EmployeeResCenter@dep.nyc.gov.

Press Box



A PARK TO SOP UP POLLUTANTS BEFORE THEY FLOW INTO THE GOWANUS CANAL

"At the foot of Second Street in Brooklyn, hard by the Gowanus Canal, is a tiny green space with a very big job. Aply called Sponge Park, the 2,100-square-foot plot will, when it opens next spring, intercept thousands of gallons of storm water, along with pollutants like heavy metals and dog waste, before they can enter the canal. Sponge Park is a \$1.5 million pilot project, overseen by the city's Department of Environmental Protection that will determine whether such spaces can effectively prevent new pollution from entering the canal."

Read the entire New York Times Article [here](#)

Employee Assistance Program

A note from [Kaitlyn Maceira](#), LMHC, CASAC, with the Employee Assistance Program

About 10 million people are affected by Depression with a Seasonal Pattern, also commonly known as "the holiday blues." General symptoms range from irritability to feeling depressed and having a lack of motivation. Though more common in the fall and winter months with specific symptoms of weight gain and oversleeping, some people have experienced symptoms such as heightened anxiety and weight loss in the spring and summer.

If you begin to feel depressed, overtired, or less inclined to do things you used to enjoy - pay attention. Think about the last time you felt this way, was it around the same time last year? If you see a pattern, talk to someone! Or call the NYC EAP for support at (212) 306-7660.

Light therapy has been shown to reduce symptoms, as has the use of anti-depressants. However, simple self-care techniques such as monitoring your mood, planning enjoyable events and working to enter those months with a positive attitude can also help.

From all of us at NYC EAP, Happy Holidays! And please, if you drink, don't drive. And if you drive, don't drink. Take care of one another.

Coat Drive - Extended

Because the weather has been warm so far this year, most people are not thinking about winter coats. As a result, New York Cares is still in need of coats. We are helping by extending the Lefrak collections in the lobby of the low-rise building until Friday, January 15, 2016. Your donations will be much appreciated in the colder weather.

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