

For DEP, Every Month is Safety Month



With June designated as National Safety Month, the everyday importance of a safe and healthy work environment is not only critical to DEP's nearly 6,000 employees and their families, but also to the 9 million people the agency serves.

That's why the Office of Environmental Health and Safety Compliance (OEHS), pictured above, and the Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) divisions of each bureau continue to spearhead this vital function. Through their efforts, DEP has made

huge strides since being placed under the supervision of a federal monitor in 2001. Recognizing the extent of DEP's achievements, the federal monitoring program ended in December 2009 after the Agency demonstrated its robust and sustainable EHS program. Additionally, the agency invested \$160 million in upgrading safety systems at its facilities.

Although EHS is a "success story," says **Doreen Johann**, the Director of Compliance Support for OEHS, the program continues to improve and build on its successes. Since January, OEHS and EHS directors have had "a chance to step back from the mandated target dates and milestones, and take stock of the program," stated BWSO EHS Director **Persis Luke**. This has given DEP the time to de-

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Spotlight on Safety

Hearing Protection- Part 1

- Approximately 30 million U.S. workers are exposed to hazardous sound levels on the job.
- You should know about the hazards of excessive sound levels — and if and what kind of hearing protection you may need.
- Noise-induced hearing loss is one of the most common workplace injuries.
- It is often ignored and untreated. Because it has no visible effects, it usually happens over a long time, and it is not usually painful.
- Noise-induced hearing loss is 100 percent preventable but

once acquired, hearing loss is permanent and irreversible.

According to OSHA regulations (29 CFR 1910.95), audiometric testing is conducted for employees whose exposures equal or exceed the action level, which is an 8-hour time-weighted average of 85 decibels. Within 6 months of an employee's first exposure at or above the action level, they will get a valid baseline audiogram against which subsequent audiograms can be compared.

Hearing protection is a sound investment! Click here for DEP's Hearing Conservation Policy. [🔗](#)

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 officially arrived yesterday, and the City's 14 miles of beaches are as busy as ever. DEP plays a critical role making sure that our harbor waters stay clean—particularly BWSO and BWT. While it's no vacation for us, the work we do behind the scenes makes summer in the City much more fun for thousands of families throughout the five boroughs.

Last Wednesday, I was joined by Local 1320 President **James Tucciarelli** and Council Members **Diana Reyna** and **Stephen Levin** beneath the Williamsburg Bridge in Brooklyn to debut two new Vactor trucks that will begin cleaning the city's vast network of sewer lines—a great step forward for the quality of New York City's surrounding waters [🔗](#). Starting in Southeast Queens, we will systematically clean all of the City's largest sewers (called interceptors) over the next two years, cutting CSOs by up to 25% in some areas. Special thanks to Chief of Collection Facilities **Jerry Volgende**, Senior Stationary Engineers **Chris Laudando** and **Kevin Buckley**, and Deputy Commissioner **Vinny Sapienza** for putting together this fantastic initiative. You can read more about it in the New York Times [🔗](#) or in our press release [🔗](#).

Later in the week, we took the first steps to follow through on **Mayor Bloomberg's** commitment to dramatically improve the ecology of Jamaica Bay. At the 26th Ward Wastewater Treatment Plant, we have enacted measures to cut nitrogen discharges by 4,000 pounds a

day—a 10% reduction in the daily amount released into the bay as a natural by-product of the wastewater treatment process. We have also ramped-up the number of water sampling sites in the Bay by 50%, so we can get the most comprehensive picture of water quality in Jamaica Bay since we began testing 100 years ago. You can read more about it here [🔗](#) or watch the Osprey team at work on CBS News [🔗](#). Engineering Technician **Bernadette Boniecki**, Water Ecology Scientist **Geneive Hall**, and Marine Science's Section Chief **Beau Ranheim** are featured in the story, with the support of Osprey team members **Markus Koelbl**, **Stavros Georgiadis** and **Yin Ren**. Thanks to all for your tireless work all year round.

Last week, DEP employees contributed 486 pints of blood at our quarterly blood drive—one of our most successful efforts ever. Thanks to everyone who made the time to donate, and a special thank you to **Arlene Siegel-Fishman**, **Malini Strickland**, **Paula Miritello** and all of the volunteer captains for your commitment to this effort. Let's break 500 pints this fall!

Did You Know?

...that the Wards Island Wastewater Treatment Plant produces enough digester gas to heat 2,700 homes.

Focus on the Field



Angela DeLillo, the Chief of Environmental Engineering, **Charlene Graff**, the Director of Compliance, and **Paul Rush**, the Deputy Commissioner for the Bureau of Water Supply.

Ed also does a variety of work throughout the watershed. He investigates spills and coordinates cleanups to make sure that nothing winds up in the water supply. So, there's no such thing as a normal day for Ed: "I could be acting as a member of the confined space rescue team, I could be sampling a sump under consent order in Downsville, I could be providing support to our watershed spill coordinator, or I could be responding to a spill myself."

Ed began working for DEP in 2002, and the certifications he's collected speak to the variety of work he's done on behalf of New York City. His certificates and training include Asbestos Supervisor and Inspector; Initial Lead Assessor and Initial Lead Inspector. In his spare time, Ed enjoys playing basketball and spending time on the Jersey shore with his wife and three children.

DEP's Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) policies and guidelines ensure that everyone stays safe. These rules apply to individual employees from standard operating procedures, to personal protective equipment, to the way machinery is operated. EHS policies and guidelines also apply to the Agency's facilities; guaranteeing that each one is up to code, the materials they're built out of are safe and the property around them is free of contamination.

That's why DEP's Remediation Specialist **Edward Walters** works to make sure that DEP's buildings and lands meet all current EHS standards. Ed works to make sure that the older buildings—that may have lead, PCBs, asbestos or mercury on site—are safely remediated. He reports to

DEP: Then & Now

Then: Hard hats were not part of the picture in this photo of laborers in City Tunnel No. 1, Manhattan, NY (1913). The 18-mile-long tunnel took five years to complete. Relying almost entirely on manual labor, its construction went almost unnoticed as workers blasted through bedrock hundreds of feet below the City's streets.



Now: DEP employees at the Croton Water Filtration Plant construction site. Personal Protective Equipment, or PPE, is designed to protect employees from serious workplace injuries or illnesses resulting from contact with chemical, radiological, physical, electrical, mechanical, or other workplace hazards. Besides face shields, safety glasses, hard hats, and safety shoes, PPE includes a variety of devices and garments such as goggles, coveralls, gloves, vests, earplugs, and respirators.



Ask Cas

askcas@dep.nyc.gov

Q. As a part of my work here at DEP I have occasionally been asked by a vendor or contractor, when the water quickly shuts off in their residence or place of business, there is a loud bang followed by a vibration of the pipes. Since, I'm a representative of the City's water utility, I thought it was my responsibility to answer their question. With a little research, I determined this occurrence to be something called "Water Hammer." My question is, what is "Water Hammer," and how can it be resolved? **Thomas Baldwin**—Deputy Director- ACCO

A. Water Hammer is a pressure surge or wave resulting when a fluid in motion is forced to stop or change direction suddenly (momentum change). Water Hammer commonly occurs when a valve is closed suddenly at an end of a system, and a pressure wave propagates in the pipe. This pressure wave can cause major problems, from noise and vibration to pipe rupture. When shutting a water line, valves should be closed slowly to avoid abrupt stoppage of water, which causes the pressure surge.

(For DEP, Every Month is Safety Month - continued)

velop "exciting and innovative improvements and additions to further ensure the sustainability of the program" according to OEHSC Assistant Commissioner **Gerould McCoy**. These enhancements will lead to a program with better performance, thorough and timely training, and proactive compliance with emerging environmental rules and laws.

Another cornerstone of EHS, communication, has never been better. As BWT EHS Director **Bill Yulinsky** notes, "We are now working together more closely; sharing ideas, methods, programs to make the overall EHS program more consistent." EHS Directors and bureaus meet monthly "to discuss issues and develop action plans" accord-

ing to BWS Compliance Director **Charlene Graff**. But, it's important to remember that everyone at DEP has a part to play – whenever an employee has a question or concern, they should contact their EHS Bureau Director. Pipeline and Weekly Pipeline are resources to learn about upcoming EHS events.

Even though federal monitoring is over, DEP has rededicated itself to building a world-class EHS program and will continue over the coming months and years to create a more streamlined, efficient program that leads to even higher levels of environmental responsibility and safety for DEP and New Yorkers throughout the City.

Milestones

Congratulations to **Moein Karim**, BWT, and his wife **Shazia**, who had a baby boy, **Taha Karim** on June 9. All are doing well.

Congratulations to **Phil Markowitz**, BWT, whose grandson, **Milton Tenoch Rosales-Markowitz**, was born on May 17.

Event Calendar:

June is Caribbean Heritage Month at DEP – exhibits of posters, puzzles and recipes are in the 3rd Floor Corridor. Please click on link for events sponsored by the Brooklyn Borough President's Office.

Correction: **Geneive Hall**'s name was misspelled in the Focus on the Field section of last week's edition of Weekly Pipeline.

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