



PHOTO INFO...

Fall Foliage

Ashokan Reservoir - New York City Water Supply System

[SEARCH](#) [Advanced Search](#)[facebook](#)[flickr](#)[twitter](#)[Home](#)

CUSTOMER SERVICES

[Ways to Pay Your Bill](#)[Account Information](#)[Customer Assistance](#)[Water Rates](#)[Property Managers and Trade Professionals](#)

WATER UTILITIES

[Drinking Water](#)[Wastewater](#)[Stormwater](#)[Harbor Water](#)

THE WATERSHED

[Watershed Protection](#)[Watershed Recreation](#)

CITYWIDE INITIATIVES

[Regulatory Reform](#)[Environmental Education](#)[Conservation Programs](#)[Air Pollution Control](#)[Noise Codes & Complaints](#)

BUSINESSES & PROFESSIONALS

[Forms & Permits](#)[Doing Business with DEP](#)[Asbestos Abatement](#)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

10-69

July 7, 2010

CONTACT:

Farrell Sklerov / Michael Saucier (718) 595-6600

MORE INFORMATION

NYC Department of
Environmental Protection
Communications &
Intergovernmental Affairs

59-17 Junction Boulevard
19th Floor
Flushing, NY 11373

(718) 595 - 6600

DEP Issues Safety Alert on Opening Fire Hydrants

The New York City Department of Environmental Protection would like to remind New Yorkers that opening fire hydrants without spray caps is illegal, wasteful and dangerous. Illegally opened hydrants can lower water pressure and put lives at risk if there is a fire. Children can also be at serious risk, because the powerful force of an open hydrant without a spray cap can knock a child down, causing serious injury.

The unauthorized opening of New York City fire hydrants often spikes during heat waves. Firefighters need adequate water pressure to put out fires. Opening a hydrant without a spray cap lowers water pressure and can hinder firefighting by reducing the flow of water to hoses and pumps. The reduction of water pressure resulting from illegally opened hydrants can also cause problems at hospitals and other medical facilities. Opening a hydrant illegally can result in fines of up to \$1,000, imprisonment for up to 30 days, or both. New Yorkers should call 311 to report open fire hydrants.

Hydrants can be opened legally if equipped with a City-approved spray cap. One illegally opened hydrant generally releases more than 1,000 gallons of water per minute, while a hydrant with a spray cap releases 20 to 25 gallons per minute. Spray caps can be obtained by an adult 18 or over, free of charge, at local firehouses.

DEP manages the City's water supply, providing more than 1 billion gallons of water each day to more than 9 million residents, including 8 million in New York City. The in-city distribution network consists of 7,000 miles of tunnels and water mains, and includes approximately 107,000 fire hydrants throughout the five boroughs.

Public Service Announcement

- ▶ Environmental Protection Commissioner Cas Holloway speaks on the dangers of illegally opening hydrants during summer months

[Construction, Demolition & Abatement](#)

ABOUT DEP

[Inside DEP](#)

News

[DEP Featured In...](#)

[Stories from DEP](#)

[Press Releases](#)

[Public Notices](#)

[Testimony and Public Comments](#)

[Capital Projects](#)

[Job Opportunities](#)

[Environmental Reviews](#)

[A to Z Index](#)

[Contact Us](#)

▶ [View all press releases](#)

▶ [Sign up to receive DEP press releases by email](#)