

## DEP Blue

**P**rotecting New York City's water supply is absolutely critical; every day DEP delivers about one billion gallons of water to nine million people throughout the City and State. Protecting our vast watershed and making sure that the water supply remains safe is an enormous responsibility, and DEP's Bureau of Police and Security is up for the job.

Led by Deputy Commissioner **Kevin McBride**, the bureau includes DEP's watershed police force. The 191 officers that comprise DEP's police patrol the entirety of our watershed, ensuring "an uninterrupted supply of clean drinking water to the people of the City by protecting the water supply and the delivery infrastructure," says Police Chief **Peter Fusco**.

At just over 2,000 square miles, the watershed is roughly the size of the state of Rhode Island. DEP's police force includes an emergency response team, a Haz-Mat mitigation team, and strategic patrol groups. Each of the police officers must have a thorough understanding of



firearms, defensive tactics, environmental sciences and environmental law.

Lieutenant **Brian Handy**, the commanding officer of the special operations division, drives anywhere from 45,000 to 55,000 miles a year to secure the watershed and coordinate DEP's comprehensive police force. His officers regularly train for every eventuality that could occur in the watershed.

And it's a good thing they train so rigorously: on Sunday, March 7th, a resident near Muscoot Reservoir spotted some abandoned ice-fishing equipment. Fearing that the fisherman had disappeared beneath the ice, the resident called DEP Police.

(Continued on reverse side)


## Spotlight on Safety

### March is Workplace Eyes Health & Safety Month!

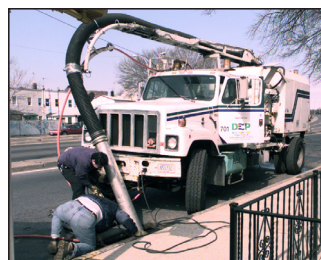
#### Eyes are priceless, eye protection is cheap.

Eye and vision problems are the most frequently reported health care problems among computer users. People who sit in front of a computer for long periods often encounter a variety of symptoms. The most prevalent are eyestrain, blurred vision and dry eye.

Sitting at a computer generally causes a person to look straight ahead for long stretches and to blink less often. These factors can lead to vision problems.

- Have a regular comprehensive eye exam.
- Wear glasses that are specifically designed to function comfortably at the computer.
- Adjust your computer and workstation:
  - Screen contrast
  - Screen glare and reflections
  - Image refresh rates and flicker
  - Working distances and angles
- Take occasional breaks and let the eyes look far away while resting. 

## Commissioner's Corner



The record-setting storm this past weekend tested DEP's mettle; we passed with flying colors, thanks to the dedication, sweat, and skill of thousands of DEP employees throughout the City and the upstate watershed. Thank you for your tremendous efforts. New Yorkers rightly expect the water to keep flowing (including into storm drains) regardless of the weather, and this weekend showed that DEP can operate in the most challenging circumstances.

The Nor'easter that lashed New York City on Saturday and Sunday brought extremely powerful winds, toppled trees, and cut power to more than 500,000 homes throughout the City. The storm also brought record-setting rains: 3.86 inches of rain fell in Central Park, breaking the previous record set in 1953. That much rainfall puts an enormous strain on our infrastructure—most of the City's wastewater treatment plants treated double the average dry weather flow that they normally see.

Preparations began early last week: in the watershed, BWS worked hard to create space for anticipated rainfall and snowmelt in our reservoirs, including securing special permission to increase our release into the Delaware River. In anticipation of upstate flooding, BWT sent pumps to the watershed, and thanks to our preparations and a little luck with the weather, the storm came through without significant incident.

In the City, BWSO inspected and cleared catch basins in

known flood areas, and worked with the Parks Department to lower water levels in the City's lakes and ponds. BWSO crews responded to 549 sewer backup and catch basin complaints during and after the storm, including flooding on the FDR Drive and the Belt Parkway in Brooklyn.

BWT dealt with a massive increase in flow volume at all 14 of our wastewater treatment plants, and performed extremely well. The crew at Oakwood Beach deserves special recognition for operating all six main pumps for seven hours. By pumping almost four times the typical dry weather flow, the crew mitigated sewer backups. Special thanks also go out to **John Abrusci**, district supervisor in BWSO, who handled the collapse of a temporary shed at the Bronx Sewer Yard during the height of the storm; **Paul Parker**, stationary engineer-electric, who restored pumps at Hunts Point WTP during a dip in Con Ed power; **Meredith Mathewson**, EOH Field Supervisor, and **Melissa Hamilton**, Scientist Water Ecologist, from EOH Water Quality Field Operations, who conducted two limnology surveys on Kensico Reservoir Sunday during difficult weather conditions; and **Dan Massi**, Kensico Regional Supervisor, who successfully completed Kensico by-pass operations on Saturday.

These are just a handful of examples of the exceptional work that DEP performed throughout the weekend, and that **Mayor Bloomberg** recognized yesterday when he briefed New Yorkers on the aftermath of the storm. Thank you again for your outstanding efforts.

And finally, there's a blood drive taking place over the next several days – I donated this morning. If you have the time, it's a quick and generous way to give. Please see the events calendar for details.

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. 

## Focus on the Field

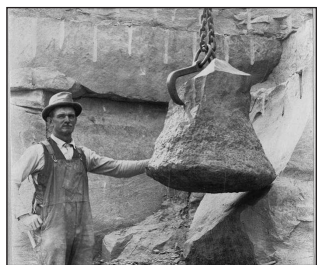


Are there women sewage treatment workers in the City's Wastewater Treatment Plants (WTPs)? You bet there are! And they are moving up in the ranks, supported by their male counterparts. **Maria Duran Waller**, a Stationary Engineer Electric, is a prime example that competence counts -- even at chiefly male-operated wastewater treatment plants. Currently Maria is Deputy Chief, Safety & Health Section, at the Wards Island WTP, reporting to **Joseph Reddington**, Section Chief, under **Bill Haberland**, Division Chief, Environmental Health, Safety (EHS) & Training, and **Bill Yulinsky**, Director, EHS, led by DC **Vinny Sapienza**.

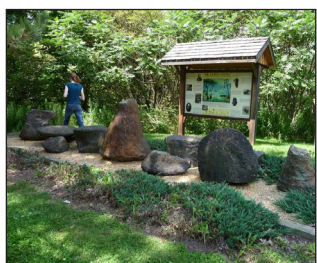
In 1985 Maria started working as an Environmental Control Technician (ECT) at Wards Island, and since, has moved laterally and has received several promotions. The first was to Senior

ECT where, Maria said, "I would visit other facilities, repair and calibrate electronic equipment, including multi-gas detection units, used chiefly for 'confined space entry'." She credits a male colleague for her becoming a sewage treatment worker (STW) at the North River plant, where she mastered all steps in the treatment process and became a Training Officer. Returning to Wards Island as Deputy Chief, Safety & Health Section, Maria was promoted to Senior STW/Safety Officer, then Stationary Engineer Electric. "This section," she says, "maintains and manages health and safety plans for all City facilities and gives safety and environmental support to their Health Sections. During BWT's Federal oversight from 2006 until it ended in December, 2009, the bureau developed a Compliance Action Plan (in addition to its strict audit program) for implementing Federal, State and local environmental regulations." Maria's mantra for 2010 is: "Improved EHS procedures and policies endorsed in the workplace take BWT into the 21st century!"

## DEP: Then & Now



tree fossils found in North America and even commanded a special exhibition at the NY State Museum. (hdq.r.1619)



Devonian Period was significant because it marked the transition from a marine to a terrestrial world and the greening of the earth.

**Then:** In 1922, fossilized tree stumps from the Devonian Period, roughly 380 million years ago, were unearthed at the Riverside Quarry in the town of Gilboa. The rock was being quarried for construction of the Gilboa Dam under Board of Water Supply contract 203. This was a hugely important paleontological discovery of the first ancient

**Now:** Today some of these fossils are on display about a half mile from the Gilboa Dam. The fossils are remnants of the earth's earliest forests and were originally located along the shore of a massive inland sea. The fossils are actually the trunks or stumps of a fern or palm with a tree-like habit. The Devonian Period

## Cas Asks

askcas@dep.nyc.gov

**Jeff Hurley**, Section Chief, EHS BWS Watershed Water Quality Operations submitted the one thing that he thinks everyone should know about DEP but may not:

The NYC water supply system relies almost entirely on gravity to feed water from the Lower Hudson Watershed distribution system. Pumping is required only in special operations and in the City at higher elevations. By the time water reaches Hillview Reservoir in Yonkers, it is 295 feet above sea level and traveling at sufficient head pressure to reach the sixth floor of most high rises without the aid of pumps. As a result, buildings greater than six stories are usually fitted with water tanks on the roof to pump and store water to provide head pressure for service. The foresight of engineers as far back as 1842, when the Croton System first went on line, to use gravity to deliver our water supply has resulted in enormous cost savings in repairs and energy.

## Milestones

Congratulations to the following DEP employees on 25 years of service: **Talal Alokush**, BEDC, **Steven Amalfitano**, BWSO, **Richard Berardis**, BWSO, **Edward Canicatti**, BWSO, **Stephen Dudar**, BEDC, **Najib Farooqi**, BWT, **Yvette Harrigan**, BCS, **George Haug**, BWS, **Edie Kantrowitz**, HRA, **Wing Kok Lau**, BEDC, **Phillip Orta**, BWSO, **Herb Roth**, HRA, **Fred Schneider**, BWSO, **Antonio Serpe**, BWSO, **John Wuthenow**, BEPA.

## Event Calendar:

**DEP Blood Drive** – 3/16 – 3/18; 8am–1:30pm; 6th Floor Training Room. BWS will have bloodmobiles at Kingston 3/16, Sutton Park on 3/18, and Grahamsville on 3/17 & 3/18. Please bring donor card or photo ID. Call (718) 595-3369/3375 for appointment.

**EPA WaterSense "Fix a Leak Week"** – 3/15 - 3/21, **Lowes Hardware** - DEP will partner with Lowe's Home Improvement in Brooklyn during 'Fix a Leak Week' for on-site presentations and in-store educational workshops.

**World Water Week** – 3/21-3/27, DEP & Deutsche Bank will once again support efforts to raise awareness of the world water crisis through outreach alignments with Deutsche Bank; trade show 10:30 am - 2:30 pm.

## Did You Know?

... one inch of rainfall in NYC (305 sq mi) is 5.3 billion gallons – that's almost 5 times more than its daily capacity that our wastewater treatment systems need to handle.

(DEP Police... - continued)

Chief **Fusco**, Captain **Arnold**, Lieutenant **Miceli**, Sergeant **Pace**, Sergeant **Novi**, Sergeant **Turck**, Sergeant **Santamaria**, Detective **Rosario**, Detective **Santamaria**, and Environmental Police Officers **Reis**, **Ortiz**, **Hewlett**, **Monell**, **Wilkins**, **Upshaw**, **Warmbier**, **Kresser**, **Marinelli**, **Feldbauer**, **Dwon**, **Misenar**, **Menichino**, **Arenas**, **Dipaolo**, and **Lukacs**, responded to the call almost

immediately. Some members of the team entered the icy waters to search for the missing fisherman. Fortunately, the fisherman was safe (he had heard the ice crack, and went home without taking his things), but the DEP police were immediately prepared to deal with the crisis. Their vigilance, and their professionalism, is something we can all rely on.

**We welcome your feedback! To submit an announcement or suggestion, please email us at: [newsletter@dep.nyc.gov](mailto:newsletter@dep.nyc.gov).**