



PHOTO INFO...



Fall Foliage

Cannonsville 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

05-29

June 1, 2005

Contact: Charles G. Sturcken (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 Warning to Homeowners in Pelham Section of the Bronx to Beware of Imposters Posing as “Water Department” Employees

The New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has learned that an individual posing as a DEP water department inspector gained access to a home in the Pelham section of the Bronx, claiming he was there to inspect for “brown water.” The phony inspector was allowed entry into the home of an elderly woman, and proceeded to check her sinks and other water using fixtures. He then asked her for change of \$100 and when she indicated she had no money in the house, he said he would return the following day.

“Allowing unknown individuals into your home can have serious consequences,” said Commissioner Emily Lloyd. Any persons who identify themselves as being from DEP or the water department, must either have made a previous appointment, which you can confirm with DEP, or be able to provide correct documentation. DEP employees who are authorized to enter homes must carry and show photo I.D. cards and badges. Since impostors or others seeking access may have some form of identification, it is important to make sure that the I.D. card is from the New York City Department of Environmental Protection.”

Important Facts for Homeowners to Protect Themselves from Imposters who Claim They Need to Inspect Water Quality, Water Meters or Plumbing Equipment

- ▶ Most water meters are read remotely from outside the home. DEP water use inspectors, however, may seek access without appointments for certain assignments, such as meter reading (if there is no remote or it does not work) and inspecting installations or repairs performed by DEP contractors.
- ▶ DEP water use inspectors wear uniforms and carry photo I.D. cards. Con Edison workers, who read water meters for DEP in all five boroughs, also wear uniforms and carry identification.

[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](#)

- ▶ Contractors installing water meters usually, but not always, make appointments in advance, wear uniforms, carry photo I.D. cards, and drive trucks bearing company identification.
- ▶ DEP air and noise inspectors and water quality investigators do not wear uniforms, but they must carry and present photo I.D. cards and DEP inspector badges. When doing tests in buildings and homes at the request of citizens, they normally make appointments in advance.
- ▶ DEP employees who respond to emergency situations, such as hazardous material spills or leaks in water and sewer systems may need to gain access to buildings or homes to determine the source of a leak. They do not wear uniforms, but must carry and present photo I.D. cards whenever requesting access to a residence or building.
- ▶ No DEP employee is ever authorized to ask for cash money to perform any service or for payment of past due bills.

IF CITIZENS HAVE NOT BEEN CONTACTED DIRECTLY FOR AN APPOINTMENT OR BELIEVE THAT PERSONS ARE MISREPRESENTING THEMSELVES AS DEP EMPLOYEES, THEY SHOULD PHONE THE LOCAL POLICE PRECINCT OR 311.