



New York City Office of Emergency Management
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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**NYC OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PROVIDES UPDATE ON
CITY'S RESPONSE TO YESTERDAY'S SEVERE WEATHER**

***ALTERNATE SIDE PARKING SUSPENDED IN COMMUNITY BOARDS 7, 10, 12 AND 14
FOR FRIDAY, AUGUST 10TH***

The NYC Office of Emergency Management (OEM) is coordinating the City's response to the severe weather that impacted several neighborhoods on Wednesday. Streets flooded and trees were downed citywide, especially in the Sunset Park and Bay Ridge areas Brooklyn. OEM, along with several City agencies, including the Mayor's Community Affairs Unit (CAU), the Fire Department (FDNY), the Police Department (NYPD) and the Departments of Environmental Protection (DEP), Buildings (DOB), Homeless Services (DHS), Housing Preservation and Development (HPD), Consumer Affairs (DCA), Parks (DPR), Transportation (DOT) Sanitation (DSNY) and Small Business Services (SBS) are operating in Sunset Park and Bay Ridge. They are joined by personnel from the American Red Cross.

Residents should call 311 to report property damage as a result of the storms. Assessment teams from the Department of Buildings are in the area and will determine whether properties are safe to reenter.

While clearing debris from the Sunset Park and Bay Ridge area, the Department of Environmental Protection tested 10 samples of roofing asphalt for asbestos, a material once widely used as a strengthening and fireproofing agent. Three of the 10 samples tested positive. Asbestos fibers can pose health hazards when inhaled regularly over long periods. But because the asbestos used in roofing materials is sealed in asphalt, it is highly unlikely that fibers would be released into the air, where they could be inhaled. As a precaution to the public, the Department of Design and Construction has brought in a certified contractor to conduct asbestos abatement.

The following is a summary of the City's efforts to quickly respond to this morning's weather, assess damage and clean and reopen affected areas:

NYPD

The Police Department continues to provide security for homes unoccupied as a result of the storm and well as traffic control required by street closings in the effected areas.

FDNY

The Fire Department responded to more than 500 emergency calls citywide yesterday for fallen trees, limbs, downed overhead wires, flooding. FDNY provided structural damage assessments for more than 40 buildings.

DOB

The Buildings Department has detected approximately 60 buildings that sustained damage from last night's storm. DOB has vacated approximately 30 buildings and marked them with red tags. As a safety precaution, these buildings will remain vacated until the Buildings Department deems them safe to re-enter. Property owners should be advised that red placards do not automatically mean that the property has been condemned or will require demolition. The red placards are used as a safety precaution to denote buildings vacated.

DOB has posted yellow placards on 6 buildings. Buildings with yellow placards do not necessarily have an unsafe condition, but do have some type of damage that prevents safe occupancy. The yellow placards outline restrictions for use of the property.

DOB is visiting the emergency shelter today to hand out guidelines on steps property owners must take in order for the Buildings Department to lift the vacate orders. New Yorkers whose buildings were affected should call 311 to learn about the steps they must take as property owners.

The Buildings Department is advising New Yorkers who are concerned their buildings may have sustained damage from last night's storm to call 311. If residents see an emergency, call 911. Buildings inspectors and engineers are standing by to provide assistance to any New Yorker who suspects their buildings sustained damage from the storm.

HPD

HPD, along with personnel from the FDNY and DOB, are conducting rapid assessments of buildings throughout the Sunset Park and Bay Ridge area. HPD contractors were dispatched to the area to help clear debris and to begin effecting emergency repair. Once emergency repairs have rendered buildings safe, private contractors hired by property owners will complete any necessary repairs.

As of this morning, all emergency repairs have been completed, but additional damage assessment teams have been dispatched and further repair work is expected. HPD personnel are remaining in the area to assist landlords and homeowners in understanding what efforts have been and are being taken to secure damaged buildings.

SBS

The Department of Small Business Services' Business Outreach Team is on site helping businesses reopen, navigate the insurance claim process and access government agencies. SBS will be offering small emergency grants for storefront improvement to severely impacted businesses in the area hit by the tornado. For more information, businesses should call 311 and ask for the Department of Small Business Services.

DHS

The Department of Homeless Services is working with the American Red Cross to provide air-conditioned shelter for approximately 30 individuals who were displaced by yesterday's storms. Food, water and baby supplies are being provided. DHS is working with the American Red Cross and HPD to address long term housing issues.

DEP

The Department of Environmental Protection continues to clear sewer grates and catch basins citywide, with 290 employees dedicated to the efforts. DEP also continues environmental testing.

DPR

The Parks Department is removing over 500 reported fallen trees and tree limbs from public and private property. Numerous pieces of heavy equipment and Parks forestry personnel have been dispatched to affected areas.

Residents who need to have fallen trees, limbs, or other wood removed from their property are asked to call 311. All wood must be removed by Parks personnel to contain the spread of the Asian Long Horned Beetle.

DSNY

The Department of Sanitation has been cleaning and clearing downed trees throughout affected neighborhoods since early Wednesday. DSNY has dedicated 200 employees solely to storm clean-up operations.

Home owners are reminded to place their recyclable and garbage out as normal for collection, but please don't mix it in with the cut trees.

DOT

DOT suspended Alternate Side Parking regulations in Community Boards 7, 10, 12 and 14 today to facilitate tree removal. Alternate Side Parking regulations will again be suspended in those Community Boards on Friday, August 10th. However, parking meters will remain in effect throughout the City.

The department installed temporary traffic signals at 9th Avenue and 47th Street. All other damaged signals have been repaired. DOT's Sidewalk Inspection Unit is inspecting sidewalk damage in the affected area and assessing what needs to be repaired.

CAU

The Mayor's Community Affairs Unit continues to maintain a presence in Bay Ridge and Sunset Park, communicating with elected officials, community boards and religious and civic groups. CAU is working with the State Senator Martin Golden's office and the Brooklyn Chinese American

Association to provide translators for outreach operations. The agency also provided medical care and showering facilities for individuals being sheltered.

DCA

The Department of Consumer Affairs is distributing information to affected homeowners on how to protect themselves when hiring home improvement contractors. This is especially critical due to the expected emergency repairs they may need to make due to the storm.

DCAS

The Department of Citywide Administrative Services delivered fifty 20' x 30' tarps to the affected area. Tarps are being used to cover damaged properties to minimize exposure. Additionally, the DCAS Citywide office of Occupational Safety and Health (COSH) is monitoring cleanup efforts by city employees to ensure work is performed in a safe manner.

311

311 received more than 127,000 calls on Wednesday, which is about three times as many calls as is normal on a summer weekday.

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