



Environmental Protection

Michael R. Bloomberg, Mayor
Carter Strickland, Commissioner

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Commissioner's Corner

As the city continues to recover from the destruction caused by Hurricane Sandy, I'd like to take a moment to thank you all for your tremendous efforts during this difficult period, recognize some of our colleagues who have been called upon to direct recovery efforts, share ways that you can aid fellow DEP colleagues who were affected by the storm and recognize the heroes amongst us as the country observes Veterans Day.

DEP has been able to lend assistance to other agencies as the City continues to remove floodwater from hospitals, schools, housing and tunnels. Continuing that assistance, last week **Mayor Bloomberg** tapped **Kathryn Mallon**, Deputy Commissioner for BEDC, to get the NYC Rapid Repairs Program up and running. Through an unprecedented partnership between the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the City, NYC Rapid Repairs will send teams of contractors and City inspectors into hard-hit neighborhoods to quickly and efficiently make necessary repairs to damaged homes. The Mayor has also asked **Matt Mahoney**, Associate Commissioner for BCIA, to act as the City's Community Recovery Director for Manhattan and the Bronx. Matt is responsible for identifying urgent needs, staying in close contact with community leaders and deploying resources to meet those needs. Based on their track record of success here at DEP I am confident that both Kathryn and Matt will do a terrific job in these important positions.

I also want to thank you all for donating your time and resources to help in the recovery efforts. While most of us experienced minor disruptions—including temporary power outages and transportation challenges—some of our peers were not as fortunate. More than 1,100 DEP employees and their families were in Zones A and B, the areas hit hardest by the storm, and are now dealing with the devastating aftermath. Starting today we are collecting essential items for a Hurricane Sandy Relief Drive. The items most in need include large garbage bags, cleaning supplies, batteries, flashlights, paper towels, disposable



cups/plates/spoons, canned food, granola and protein bars, diapers, baby wipes, baby food, bottles, bedding/blankets, towels, socks, school supplies, pet food/supplies and hand sanitizer. Drop off locations include:

All Wastewater Treatment Plants and BWSO Yards

DEP Headquarters in Queens:

- 3rd Floor low-rise elevator bank
- 11th Floor elevator bank
- 18th Floor reception area
- 19th Floor reception area

Upstate:

- Ashokan
- Downsville
- Downsville Police Barracks
- Grahamsville
- Katonah
- Kingston
- Margaretville
- Shokan and Schoharie
- Tannersville
- Valhalla

While these items will be a great help to many of our employees who were affected by the storm, other employees' needs are much more extensive. We are in the process of contacting all of our DEP colleagues from Zones A and B to find out if they are in need of specific items. In response, we have created a site where employees can go to find out what specific items their colleagues are request-

ing. I encourage you to voluntarily offer whatever you can donate to support our peers. You can access the Hurricane Sandy Relief Registry here [G](#) or under "Projects" on SharePoint.

If you and your family were affected by Hurricane Sandy, I encourage you to visit the Relief Registry to let us know what you need. If you have any questions about the Relief Registry, please email employeeeneedrequest@dep.nyc.gov.

Employees can also set aside a specified amount of money from their paychecks to aid in disaster relief efforts through the Mayor's Fund to Advance New York City. Employees who wish to participate may specify a one-time deduction from a single paycheck, or a recurring amount to be deducted from their paycheck over the next

two months. These tax-deductible deductions will begin with the paychecks and direct deposits issued on November 23, 2012. To enroll in this program log into the NYCAPS employee self-service page [G](#) and click on the Hurricane Sandy Relief Fund link. For more information call (718) 595-3541.

Finally, as we observe Veteran's Day I'd like to honor and thank our nearly 150 colleagues who have served in the United States Armed Forces. Their commitment to service is reflected in the important work they do here at DEP on a daily basis.

Once again, thank you all for your tireless effort in helping the city recover and for your generous support to our DEP colleagues and to all New Yorkers who have been affected by Hurricane Sandy.

Spotlight on Safety

It's Safety First in Storm Recovery

Now that Hurricane Sandy recovery efforts are well underway, employees involved in cleanup, recovery and repair activities must continue to pay attention to safety first. It will be a long haul!

Typically, hazards present in cleanup work include exposure to contaminated water, downed electrical wires, carbon monoxide build up from portable generators, working in confined spaces, lacerations, musculoskeletal injuries, exposure to hazardous materials in debris and mold in water damaged areas and trip hazards because of additional hoses and temporary wiring.

Employees from all DEP bureaus are going above and beyond, providing critical and extraordinary assistance with recovery efforts. Bureau EHS Staff and OEHS have been coordinating to provide in-

formation on job hazard assessments, safe work practices and additional site visits to help DEP employees, particularly those working at field sites and at several affected wastewater treatment plants, work as safely as possible. DEP also participates in City-wide safety assessment efforts being coordinated by DOHMH.

DEP employees are not only putting in extraordinary effort but might be dealing with recovery efforts at home. It is important to recognize the signs of fatigue and let your supervisor know. Even a brief break can make a big difference. Don't double up on the negative results from this tragedy—Put safety first!

The [NYC DOHMH](#), [CDC](#) and [OSHA](#) websites all have excellent information on Hurricane recovery safety.

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. [G](#)

Press Box



Watershed Crews Chip In at Midtown Fire

After a week spent cutting and clearing trees leveled by super storm Sandy, nine members of Task Force Chipper—the joint BWS/ Delaware County Public Works chainsaw team—responded to a different kind of emergency Friday night. The team was dining at a sushi restaurant when a bus boy emerged from the kitchen engulfed in flames. BWS' **Dave Rosa** helped get the man to the ground and put out the flames while other Task Force Chipper members, including **Nick Burton, Bob Pesout, Kevin O'Brien, Tom Lampert, Bob Diaz, Tim Cobane, Scott Lambrecht** and **Trevor Moody** helped evacuate the restaurant. 

Did You Know



...that beyond getting our operational activities back up to full-speed, DEP has taken the following steps to help New Yorkers recover from Hurricane Sandy and get the City back to work?

- Temporarily waived the permit requirement to pump flood water into the City sewer system
- Temporarily waived service line shut-off and interest fees for property owners affected by Hurricane Sandy
- Temporarily waived the low sulfur requirement for #4 home heating oil as well as the 2% bio-diesel requirement
- Streamlined the boiler permitting process so that emergency repairs can begin immediately

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

Around the Clock Recovery



BWSO crews have been working to inspect, clean and make necessary repairs to our infrastructure throughout the city, while focusing on the hardest hit areas including the Rockaways, southern Brooklyn and Staten Island. To date more than 3,500 catch basins have been inspected and, using vacator and catch basin cleaning trucks, more than 2,300 have been cleared of debris. Flusher trucks have cleaned nearly 10,000 linear feet of sewer lines and crews have removed almost 1,000 cubic yards of debris from Jefferson Creek on Staten Island to restore natural drainage. Beginning this past weekend, crews have partnered with DSNY and FDNY and are moving block by block to power wash streets in the Rockaways.



BCS staff fielded inquiries at the Customer Service Center in Queens and at the borough offices throughout the week of Hurricane Sandy. In addition to handling standard billing questions, representatives assisted 311 in recording reports of sewer backups and clogged catch basins. The staff exemplified DEP's commitment to customer service, rain or shine.



BWT staff, including Deputy Commissioner **Vincent Sapienza, John Petito, Ravi Basant, Mike Quinn, Jim Mueller** and **Art Spangel**, have been working around the clock to make repairs to the hard-hit Rockaway Wastewater Treatment Plant. Staff have also re-located equipment from the plant's dock so that EDC could establish a passenger ferry service from Rockaway to Manhattan, which began service this week.