

# HEAT BEAT

HYDRANT EDUCATION ACTION TEAM

## Open Fire Hydrants, Here We Come!



**Commissioner Strickland and the HEAT Teams walk the Grand Concourse to educate Bronx residents on alternatives to illegally opening fire hydrants.**

### Week in Review

This week, local media joined DEP Commissioner Carter Strickland and the Hydrant Education Action Teams (HEAT) as they talked to residents in the Bronx about safe alternatives to illegally opening fire hydrants as a way to cool off. The teams are active in the Bronx and Washington Heights communities talking about the dangers of illegally opened hydrants.

The importance of their mission was illustrated last Wednesday when a fire broke out in Parkchester, which required strong water pressure to control and put it out. Project Coordinator Tarique Rumi said, "It's during these times where our work can make a difference between life and death."



*Commissioner Strickland explained that spray caps can be found at local firehouses.*

The New York City Department of Environmental Protection indicated that the implementation of the HEAT program resulted in a 50% reduction in reports of illegally opened fire hydrants. This success preserves water and saves lives, all while empowering the HEAT youth advocates to become engaged leaders in their communities.

After the event, Nyasia Brown from the Community Board 4 team said that, "It was a great experience for me to really share my words with the community, explaining something that concerns the safety of young children and my own neighbors." The HEAT teams are proud to know that their work has been successful in making an impact on the community by helping residents to make safer, smarter choices when it comes to staying cool in the summer.

The media event not only served to let the public know about the work of the HEAT program, but it also recognized the hard work of the HEAT teams and their leaders in spreading HEAT's message in local communities. The team members said it is encouraging when community residents stop them to acknowledge the important work they are doing.

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## Upcoming Events

JULY 2013

**July 22:** Dominican Women DEV Center

*Location:* Fort George Playground

*Time:* 10:30AM

**July 23:** Marc After School Programs

*Location:* 2105-2111 Jerome Ave

*Time:* 11:00AM

**July 24:** YUM Food Market

*Location:* Isabella Ground Floor 515 Audubon Ave.

*Time:* 12:00PM-4:00PM

**July 25:** Fire House Visit Engine 75

*Location:* 2175 Walton Avenue

*Time:* 11:00AM

**July 26:** Jay Hood Wright Park

*Location:* 351 Fort Washington

*Time:* 10:00AM

**Come Join Us!**

## Interview

Community Board 12A visited Fireman Kurt of Engine 95 Ladder 36. Kurt has dedicated himself to fighting fires and saving lives for seven years. He sees fire hydrant safety as a top priority. "Everyone should be aware of fire hydrant safety, and playing in fire hydrants is fun, but should be done in moderation [through accessing spray caps]". Kurt also commented that low hydrant pressure has prevented him and his fellow firefighters from effectively putting out fires during emergencies. He commends the work of HEAT, adding, "Any help we can get is great!"

## Did You Know?

Water from a fire hydrant is the same water that you drink and shower with at home. **Illegally opened fire hydrants affect your own water supply!**



## Public Opinion

Local Bronx resident Rafael says, "I live on the 10<sup>th</sup> Floor. When the fire hydrants are open my building doesn't get enough water. It is especially difficult to take a shower." (Community Board 5)

A concerned neighbor from Dyckman Street shared, "My sister was constantly affected by the open hydrants...there were times when the illegally opened hydrants water pressure was so strong that it drained her water supply." She added, "Parents should take children to nearby parks with sprinklers...it's really up to the adults to help stop this issue." (Community Board 12)



**The purpose of HEAT is to educate community residents and stakeholders about the problems surrounding the illegal use of fire hydrants.**

**The Hydrant Education Action Team (HEAT) is jointly sponsored by:**