Spotlight on Safety

Legionellosis

Legionnaires’ disease and Pontiac Fever are collectively known as Legionellosis, a disease caused by Legionella bacteria. Legionnaires’ disease is a type of pneumonia that is caused by ingesting or inhaling high concentrations of legionella bacteria in water and Pontiac Fever is a less serious infection with milder symptoms similar to the flu. While Legionnaires’ can be serious, especially for those with existing health conditions, it is treatable with antibiotics. Transmission is not spread by person to person contact, nor by regular use and operation of NYC’s water supply infrastructure.

Outbreaks of Legionnaires’ disease are sometimes the result of improper maintenance of cooling towers and air conditioning systems; or when a system has been dormant and then started up without proper disinfection. Water fountains, disinfection. Water fountains, then started up without proper system has been dormant and condition of cooling towers and air conditioning systems; or when a result of improper maintenance disease are sometimes the

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.

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<td>Cannonsville</td>
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<td>Schoharie</td>
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In remembrance of 9/11, DEP is partnering with the New York Blood Centers to help provide the gift of life and maintain the community’s blood supply. Donors with an O-negative blood type, or “universal donors,” are especially urged to give because their blood can be transferred to anyone. Remember to eat and hydrate before you donate and don’t forget to bring your donor ID card.

Blood drives will be taking place at the below locations and times —

**Lefrak:** 6th Floor Training Rooms, 9/12 and 9/13, 7:45am to 1:45pm;
**Kingston/Catskill Area:** 51 Albany Avenue, 9/17, 10:30am to 5:30pm;
**Downsville Region Area:** Downsville Fire Hall, 9/12, 9am to 2pm;
**Schoharie Area:** Grand Gorge Civic Center, 9/14, 2pm to 6pm;
**Grahamsville Region:** Grahamsville Fire House, 10/19, 10am to 3pm.

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

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**Welcome Aboard!**

Yesterday, 41 new employees attended orientation and received an overview of the department from Commissioner Sapienza and HR Specialist Grace Franco (not pictured). We hope everyone will join us in welcoming them to DEP!


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**Racers Paddle Across Schoharie**

Schoharie Reservoir was featured in the New York Adventure Racing Association’s challenging The Longest Day event. Over the span of 24 hours, from 7 a.m. on Sept. 1 to 7 a.m. on Sept. 2, competitors biked and navigated their way through the rugged hills, rivers, streams and trails of the Catskill Mountains, including paddling in kayaks in a loop around the Schoharie Reservoir.

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**Cease the Grease Outreach**

DEP’s Cease the Grease teams canvassed more than 250 homes in Sheepshead Bay, Brooklyn, during the three-day Labor Day weekend, spreading awareness among customers about how cooking oil poured into a drain clogs pipes in the home and city sewers. The proper disposal of grease helps avoid sewage backups, expensive repairs, and unnecessary disruptions to residences and businesses.

Thanks to Eva Lynch and Denise Hubbard from BPAC for their outreach efforts!

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**Please Donate to Blood Drive**

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misters, showers, heat exchangers, and whirlpool spas are also places the bacteria can develop. The legionella bacteria grow in stagnant water and disperse by droplets expelled by the systems during operation or start up.

DEP personnel who are tasked with working with HVAC equipment or inspecting cooling tower meters should always follow best management practices, including the following:

- Avoid inspecting cooling tower meters at positively identified locations until the source of the outbreak has been properly addressed/cleaned
- Before inspecting cooling tower meters, request records of towers’ inspection, cleaning, disinfection dates, any sampling and test results, system maintenance/monitoring dates and work description/results.
- Wear N-95 dust masks and gloves for inspecting cooling tower meters
- Use good sanitary practices such as washing hands and face

For additional information, visit OSHA’s website.

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(Spotlight on Safety...continued)

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