

DCAS and NYC Public Schools Partner on Storm Emergency Preparedness

By Keith T. Kerman

Superstorm Sandy in 2012 and Hurricane Ida in 2021 reminded all New Yorkers of our vulnerabilities to major stormwater and power loss events. After Sandy, DCAS made a major [investment](#) in emergency equipment, including generators, light towers, forklifts, and fuel trucks, to support operations citywide.

More recently, New York City Public Schools (NYCPS) is expanding on these efforts to improve emergency response and resiliency at school sites citywide. In the last two years, NYCPS invested in 18 new equipment pieces to enhance their ability to respond to local or citywide emergencies. The equipment included five 400-kilowatt generators, 10 6-inch emergency dewatering pumps, three transport pickups, and portable three-phase generators.



On February 20, 2025, NYCPS, along with DCAS and NYC Emergency Management (NYCEM), conducted an important generator testing exercise, known as the Mitigate-Recovery-Response, in the Rockaways at the Waterside Children's Studio School. The exercise focused on ensuring the operational readiness of emergency generators to maintain power across key facilities in the event of a storm.

Key objectives of the exercise included testing the power output, runtime, noise level, portability, voltage regulation, safety features, and maintenance needs of various generators, all of which are crucial for sustaining operations during outages. NYCPS also has a plan to install flood barriers around schools that could be at risk for floods. For the first time, emergency generators will completely operate on renewable diesel fuel.

The testing session also highlighted the importance of training the custodial and skilled trades workforce, ensuring that all personnel are prepared for quick recovery actions after an emergency. Fortunately, major emergency events are infrequent. When they do happen, however, the response must be immediate.

It is critical for all agencies to schedule drills and refreshers to ensure that facility staff are ready to respond when the time comes.



"We would like to thank our Division of School Facilities staff and interagency partners at DCAS and NYCEM as we test our emergency response plans," states **Chief of School Operations Kevin Moran**. "This simulated power failure exercise allowed our teams to troubleshoot and resolve issues in real-time. A special thanks to our partners at the New York State Homeland Security and Emergency Services for their commitment to this critical resiliency work."

Thanks to Kevin Moran; Joe Lazarus at the Division of School Facilities; Shoshana Sheinfeld at NYCEM; and Harris Kaplan and Gary Prasad at DCAS Fleet for supporting this effort.





High blood pressure (hypertension) affects over 48% of American adults, but only 1 in 4 of them have it under control. High blood pressure can lead to heart disease, stroke, kidney failure and other serious health problems. Take action by registering for WorkWell NYC's **8-week hypertension prevention and management program**, Let's Bring the Pressure Down.

[Register](#)

Vision Zero: Building a Safer City

This show highlights vendors who support the New York City's Clean Fleet and Vision Zero initiatives, and daily operations. Vendors will offer a wide array of products to improve vehicle safety. The show will also highlight vehicles and equipment with alternative fuels and emissions-reducing technologies, along with the latest in light and heavy-duty vehicles, trucks, horticultural equipment, tools, fleet services, and more!

36th Annual Equipment & Vehicle Show

Flushing Meadows Corona Park
(by the Unisphere), Queens, NY

**Thursday,
May 15, 2025
9 a.m. - 2 p.m.**

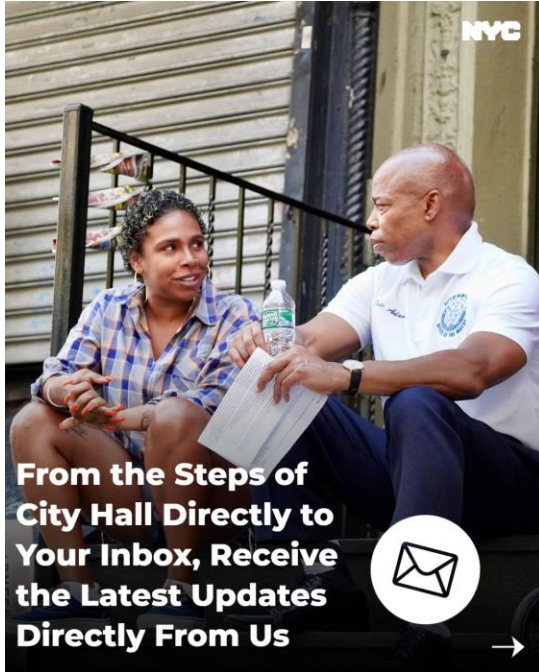
**Rain Date:
Friday,
May 16, 2025**



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accessibility@dcas.nyc.gov
by May 6, 2025



<https://www.nyc.gov/site/dcas/agencies/nyc-fleet-upcoming-events.page>

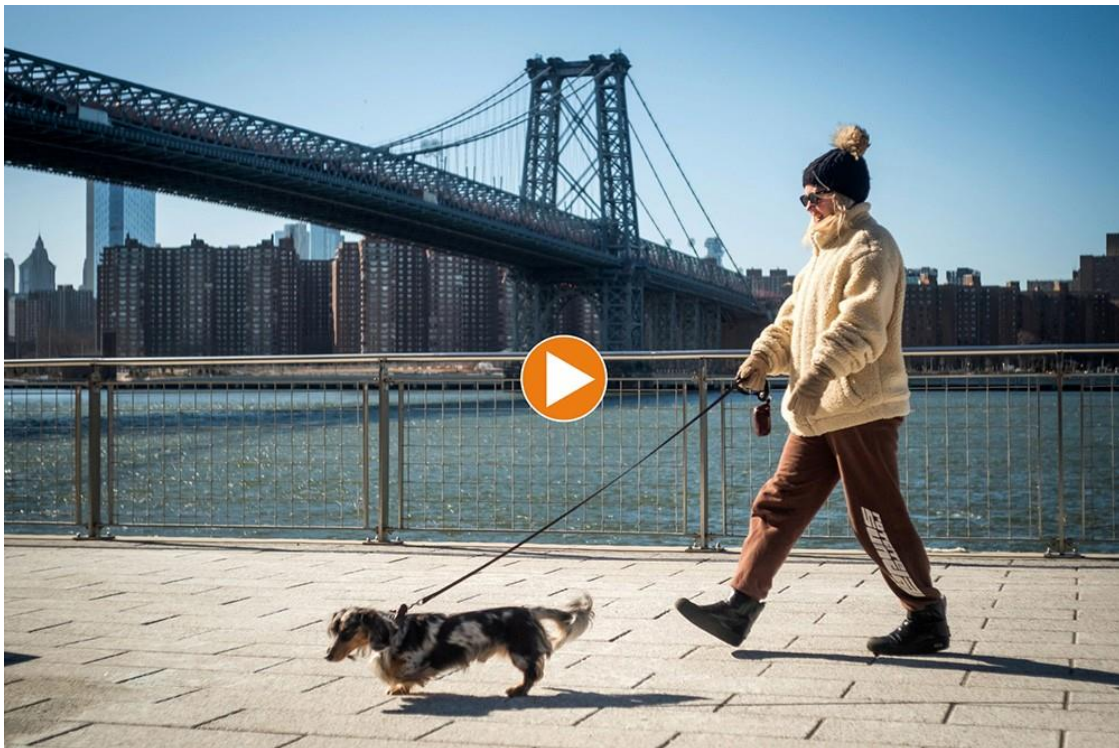


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The strength of our city depends on each and every one of us showing up and doing our best. You all have never given up on New York City, and this administration will never give up on our vision to make this the best place to raise a family.

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