

Gilsenan, Michael

From: Jeanine Prudhomme [jprudhom@health.nyc.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, April 02, 2002 12:59 PM
To: Caroline Bragdon; Christopher D'Andrea; Jim Miller; Kelly McKinney; Nancy Jeffery; Roger Hayes; Vincent Coluccio; WTCHotline@otbnyc.com
Cc: michaelgi@dep.nyc.gov
Subject: Re: DOH Referral from hotline

With respect to Vince's comment, the analytical method may not have differentiated "other" airborne fibers from asbestos fibers (the PCM-TEM issue). That's also a high number if it is an air sample! Ther must be a missed decimal point. Can DEP check whether or not her building owner has provided data on testing and cleaning of common areas? If not, could DEP visit the building?

We have not issued any advisories requiring that carpets are removed and replaced, I have stated in the past that only those items which cannot be cleaned in a satisfactory manner be discarded as municipal solid waste. In this case, "satisfactory" means by knowledge of extent of original contamination and visual observation of the effectiveness of the cleaning method - i.e. if it looks clean, it is clean. We did not issue blanket advisories that carpets needed to be discarded or that they needed to be tested. We should be cognizant of where the EPA and Lower Manhattan Task Force cleaning groups are going with respect to cleaning and clearance of carpets since it is documented that it is difficult to remove fibers from carpets. We need to keep this in mind as it appears that the COC group's recommendation for asbestos in settled dust will be the ASTM microvac sample method - we will need to verify whether or not the group intends to sample carpets with this method. We also need to ensure that the criteria we are looking into will apply to carpets as well (and all of the other issues such as background, when to dispose of if cleaning is not effective, etc.)

Jim: I think that someone from the DOH needs to closely participate in these cleaning sub groups - I assume that you or someone else is. Let me know if you need any assistance from me.

One of us could also call her to clarify her results and determine the method of cleaning, and get other information. Maybe we should put her on the list of potential locations for sampling as Nancy suggested.

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>>> Nancy Jeffery 04/02/02 10:57AM >>>
 So, what do you suggest a response would be to the caller regarding the "letter" should be?

I suggest that we discuss this with FEMA.

Nancy Loder Jeffery
 Director
 Environmental and Occupational Disease Epidemiology
 (212) 788-4290

>>> Vincent Coluccio 04/02/02 09:46AM >>>
 Jim

Routine HEPA vacuuming is certainly appropriate here.

There is no standard definition of professional cleaning, and it begs the question as to what the cleaning company did. For example, did they remove rugs and matting, HEPA vac and steam clean them and clean the floor before replacing them? This might be a best case cleaning scenario. On the other hand, did they just pass a (non-HEPA) vacuum over the rugs? These types of questions may become more prevalent as tenants begin to reflect on actions taken in their apartments by cleaning services during the immediate aftermath of 9/11.

Two side points - She is requesting bulk dust testing, however if she is HEPA vacuuming every day there shouldn't be enough dust available in her apartment for a bulk sample. Also, the asbestos fiber value for the rug is presented as 42 fibers/cc, which is an airborne concentration and not a loading value.

Vin

>>> Jim Miller 04/01/02 08:09PM >>>

Vin--Does HEPA vacuuming seem appropriate for these conditions? Is there a standard definition re what constitutes "professional cleaning"?

Mike--Does her concern for dusty common areas warrant a referral to DEP for a site visit?

>>> WTC Hotline <WTCHotline@otbnyc.com> 04/01/02 12:12PM >>>

I spoke at length this morning with a woman named Magdalena Hasiec.

She lives at 400 Chambers St., apt. 4P. She has 2 young children and is concerned about their health. She re-occupied her apt in October but didn't test her apt until February. In Feb, she hired Pure Solutions to test the dust/air for \$1500, they found asbestos fibers in her rug (42 fibers/cc) she obtained a HEPA Vac and has been cleaning every day. She also had her apt professionally cleaned. She has a few issues she needed follow-up on:

- 1) Her landlord tested indoor air but not dust, she wants bulk dust testing
(I added her address to request list)
- 2) She is concerned that the common areas in her building have not been adequately cleaned or tested for dust.
- 3) Her landlord told her that he would not replace any rugs unless she signed a release form saying that she would not sue in the event the rugs were contaminated
- 4) FEMA told her that in order to get funding to replace her rugs herself she needs a letter from DOH stating that the city has no authority to enforce that her landlord clean up the building or replace rugs as long as the results of the monitoring are below regulatory standards.

Her phone number is 212-233-7126. What should I tell her about the letter and whether or not to sign the release form to get her rug replaced?
Thanks.

-Caroline

Lower Manhattan Air Quality Hotline

212-221-8635, Hours of Operation 11:00 AM - 7:00 PM

To reach Hotline Operators please call: 212-704-5115

To fax Hotline Operators: 212-704-5170