

NY Times - 10/6

①

EPA has tested the air in lower Manhattan more than 1000 X — and has concluded that it does not show dangerous levels of contamination.

Comm. Niule, DEP, the air quality can cause nagging discomfort (burning eyes, tears, skin rashes, sore throats) — "it's not a health concern."

Samples from OSHA (Occupational Safety & Health Admin.) indicate no airborne asbestos or other contaminants beyond the disaster site.

Mr. Niule stated he understood the fear "it's human nature" — He said the real respiratory concern should be the unfiltered diesel smoke coming from the rescue & construction vehicles in the ground zero "red zone" —

② Officials have tested for asbestos + metals - lead, iron oxide, zinc oxide, copper, beryllium - and soot, that might create health hazards, as well as other pollutants.

* None of the metals exceeded OSHA limits. Tests show that there have been occasional spikes in soot levels which appear to be associated with the flare-up of fires within the wreckage.

EPA, OSHA, NYCDOH - indicate that there was no reason for general health concern. (Spikes near the epicenter but nothing that reveals a health risk.)

* of 442 asbestos samples taken, only 27 exceeded EPA standards - on a transient basis.

- (3) Since the first days after the attack, asbestos levels in dust in the red zone have almost all been below the concentration at which the mineral is even technically defined to exist - 1% of the total mass of a sample.

Some findings by EPA + DEP show on their website certain days + places where levels exceeded safety standards, But these standards are for inside a building - not the air outside which disperses quickly,

- * While the quality of the air may indeed be below certain safety standards, it is not dangerous,

The agencies use the indoor standard to be cautious + because a safety standard for outdoor air does not exist,

④ Peter Iwanowicz, Dir. of Environ. health for the Amer. Lung Assn. of NY — said everything he's seen has been consistent with what the regulatory people are saying. Things are within legal standards + going down our time.

Tri Daily there was no supervision at the attack — now trucks are covered with tarps, the streets, wreckage + workers are washed down to cut dust

NY Times independent Testers have concluded that the outdoor street level air in the vicinity of the Trade center site does not contain poisons or toxic substances, resp. lead + asbestos, in levels sufficient to raise long-term public health concerns

benzene disperses so quickly (5)

Debate about the negative effect on large + small particles - 1) large particles tend to imbed in lung tissue; smaller particles, tho' penetrating more deeply into the lungs, can be more readily attacked + removed by the body's internal defenses.

odor of air worse at night, due to air circulation -

Dr. Thurs Don, WU, Assoc. Prof. Environ. Medicine, - Agreed. There was no sign of a clear health risk to residents - BUT if you avoid an exposure, does!

^{on interest in cleanup -}
~~Idling vehicles - non-fitted diesel fuels~~
~~which pollute the air (fuel fuels); exhaust~~
~~from gasoline-fired electricity generators +~~
~~diesel vehicles involved in the clean-up~~

(b)

Asbestos-containing material
(ACM) - must contain more
than 10% asbestos.

Fed. Govt. Through Centers for
Disease Control + Prevention
(CDCP) - \$5mm -

1) examine homes + schools near
Ground zero for pollutants + do
monitor potential health
problems caused by the collapse
of the towers.

2) Money also will be used to
assist the health of rescue
& construction workers who have
labored at the WTC

⊗ EPA STANDARDS CALL FOR Asbestos
Decontamination procedures when levels
reach 70 fibres per sq. mm (millimeter)

(7)
Asbestos was used in 1 WTC
up to the 40th Floor. The substance
was banned in 1971, as the WTC was
being built.

(*) Dioxin in water samples from the 13th
st. pump station were not elevated.