

Victims Group Wants Inquiry Into Sept. 11 Communications

By MICHAEL COOPER

A group representing families and friends of World Trade Center victims called yesterday for an independent inquiry into reports that the Fire Department's failing radio system and a lack of communication among the agencies that responded to the attack hampered the rescue efforts on Sept. 11.

Members of the group, the Skyscraper Safety Campaign, said their call was prompted by an article in The New York Times last week. The Times reported that technical problems and a lack of coordination between agencies meant a police warning that the north tower was in imminent danger of collapse was not relayed to many firefighters still inside the tower, the second one to fall.

"We need to find out what went wrong on Sept. 11," said Monica Gabrielle, a chairwoman of the group who spent her 29th wedding anniversary yesterday mourning the loss of her husband, Richard, an insurance broker killed in the south tower. "We need to learn from it, and we need to fix it, and we need to fix it now."

The group sent letters yesterday to Gov. George E. Pataki, Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg and Gifford Miller, the City Council speaker, asking for meetings and for an independent investigation of the rescue effort.

Sally Regenhard, another chairwoman of the group, said: "Only when we have strong building codes, plus a strong system of emergency management, a strong system of cooperation and communication between the Fire Department and the Police Department, can we be confident that we are safe and secure." Her son, Christian, was a probationary firefighter who died that day.

A spokesman for Mr. Bloomberg said the mayor was sure Police Commissioner Raymond W. Kelly and Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta would study the emergency response and try to learn from it.

"The mayor has full confidence in

Search for Remains Ends With Ceremony

The city will mark the end of its efforts to recover human remains from the rubble of the World Trade Center today with a ceremony at the Fresh Kills landfill on Staten Island, where more than a million and a half tons of debris have been sifted for clues.

Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg, Gov. George E. Pataki and Police Commissioner Raymond W. Kelly are expected to speak at the ceremony, which is scheduled for 9:30 a.m.

Although the trade center site will be closed, the office of the chief medical examiner will continue to try to identify the human remains that have been recovered from the landfill.

Commissioners Scoppetta and Kelly to make sure we learn as much as we can from the tragic attack of Sept. 11," Edward Skyler, the mayor's press secretary, said in a statement. "Already, the Police and Fire Departments have both assigned liaisons to each other, and are instituting other initiatives to improve communications and procedures."

The Fire Department has hired McKinsey & Company to evaluate its methods, and it is again testing radios to try to fix a communications problem that has existed for years.

Jennifer Farina, a spokeswoman for Mr. Pataki, said the governor looked forward to receiving the letter and would consider its point. And Christopher Policano, a Council spokesman, said Mr. Miller would meet with the group and the Council would consider holding hearings.

NEW JERSEY

CLIFTON: PRIEST PLACED ON LEAVE AMID ACCUSATIONS A Roman Catholic priest has been placed on leave by the Diocese of Paterson after he was accused of sexually abusing a Morris County youth more than 25 years ago. The priest, the Rev. Thomas G. Rainforth, denied the allegations, but voluntarily stepped down from his post at St. Philip the Apostle Church in Clifton, said Marianna Thompson, a diocese spokeswoman. The diocese notified the Passaic County prosecutor's office after learning of the allegations two weeks ago, Ms. Thompson said. She said the diocese is investigating. (AP)

MANCHESTER TOWNSHIP: IODIDE PILLS ARE DISTRIBUTED The State Department of Health and Senior Services distributed potassium iodide pills at Manchester High School on Saturday and from a site in Salem County. The pills were free to people who live or work within 10 miles of the state's four nuclear plants. Those who showed up to get the pills were also given brochures on emergency planning and response. The 130-milligram pills are to be taken to prevent thyroid cancer in the event of a nuclear disaster. There is no claim the pills would stop any other effects of radiation. (AP)

CONNECTICUT

HARTFORD: LAW SCHOOL APPLICATIONS RISE IN STATE Applications to major law schools in Connecticut were up this year because of a poor job market for recent college graduates and layoffs in other fields, school officials said. At the University of Connecticut School of Law, applications rose 46 percent from last year, with almost 3,000 people applying for 240 open spots. Quinnipiac University School of Law applications rose 28 percent, with nearly 2,000 vying for about 180 spots. Yale Law School applications rose 10 percent for the second consecutive year, with more than 3,600 trying for 185 spaces. (AP)

Compiled by Anthony Ramirez

Lottery Numbers

July 14, 2002

Midday New York Numbers —
638

Midday New York Win 4 — 1151

New York Numbers — 501

New York Win 4 — 0392

New York Take 5 — 2, 16, 18, 25, 29

New York Pick 10 — 1, 3, 8, 13, 17,
22, 23, 30, 32, 33, 44, 46, 47, 49, 54, 57,
63, 68, 72, 76

New Jersey Pick 3 — 561

New Jersey Pick 4 — 3393

New Jersey Cash 5 — 28, 33, 34, 35,
37

Connecticut Daily — 511

Connecticut Play 4 — 7676

Connecticut Cash 5 — 7, 12, 17, 19,
34

July 13, 2002

New York Lotto — 5, 7, 15, 23, 32,
44; supplementary, 39

New York Pick 10 — 2, 7, 11, 15, 16,
17, 19, 24, 27,

28, 29, 30, 32, 36, 46, 55, 56, 66, 78, 79

New York Take 5 — 23, 24, 27, 28,
35

Connecticut Daily — 963

Connecticut Play 4 — 1313

Connecticut Cash 5 — 9, 14, 20, 24,
28

Powerball — 3, 22, 37, 42, 49;
powerball, 8

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Program: 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

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PARTICIPATION IS FREE, BUT SPACE IS LIMITED. RESERVE YOUR PLACE NOW!

Translation services will be available.

**To Register, CALL 1-800-862-3154
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"Listening to the City" is being organized by the Civic Alliance to Rebuild Downtown New York, a coalition of more than 85 civic, labor, business, environmental groups and academic institutions, all committed to ensuring that community voices are heard. "Listening to the City" is supported by foundations, private companies and the Lower Manhattan Development Corporation.

*Individuals unable to attend on July 20th for religious observance or other compelling reasons are invited to register – on a first-come/first-served basis – for a smaller event on July 22nd. Please call 212-404-3041 for further information.

Health, compensation issues rise in swirl of Trade Center dust

■ Police sergeants demand closer monitoring of the effects of fallout from 9/11 attacks

By HEIDI SINGER
ADVANCE CITY HALL BUREAU

During the months following Sept. 11, Police Sgt. Nick Gadaleta worked at the Fresh Kills landfill about twice a week. The Tottenville resident took meal breaks near the rubble, and when he removed his "space suit," his street clothes quickly became powdered with dust.

He wasn't worried — nobody had lectured him on the importance of decontamination. He threw them in the wash with his children's laundry.

For a few days after each Fresh Kills tour, Gadaleta suffered respiratory problems — a cough and congestion.

The dust he breathed, wore and ate is still being picked over by scientists trying to determine its toxicity, and Gadaleta now wonders if more permanent damage will surface later.

"We're all happy we lived through it," he said. "But it's something we think about — whether we lost years off our lives as a result of it."

Yesterday, Gadaleta joined two dozen sergeants on the steps of City Hall to demand that authorities do more to monitor the health of cops assigned to Ground Zero or Fresh Kills.

The officers are part of a splinter group hoping to take control of the Sergeants Benevolent Association (SBA) in its upcoming elections. They argue the city and their union should be more aggressive in monitoring officers' health.

SBA President Bernard Pound wasn't available for comment yesterday.

The city doesn't regularly monitor cops for health effects, or give them chest X-rays, liver or blood tests.

Under his health plan, Gadaleta can see a pulmonologist, but protesters said he would have trouble finding one trained to look for problems relating to Trade Center dust.

About one third of the city's 5,000 sergeants have taken sick leave due to Trade Center-linked health problems, according to David P. Duffy of Sergeants for a Better Association, the group staging yesterday's protest.

Any officer is expected and advised to report health problems to the NYPD, said Lt. Brian Burke, an NYPD spokesman.

Dozens of cops are now participating in a long-term study of health effects from Sept. 11.

The results of this study could help other officers if they develop health problems in the future, he said — but only if they lay the groundwork by undergoing initial tests with their doctors now.

Union officials are concerned about monitoring the health effects partly because they want sick cops to be able to retire at "line-of-duty" pay rates, applying to officers who were injured on the job.

Joel Kupferman, of the New York Environmental Law and Justice Project, said firefighters are monitored more closely than cops, in part because the Fire Department is accustomed to dealing with respiratory problems.

He said even today, the city doesn't take basic precautions like providing high-efficiency vacuums to properly clean Trade Center dust that he said still plagues Lower Manhattan stationhouses.

"It feels like we're second-class citizens," said Duffy.

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Union urges further cleaning of fire trucks

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Fire union officials are urging the city to have all of the emergency vehicles that responded to the World Trade Center professionally decontaminated.

The fire department has examined the 200 rigs that survived the terrorist attacks; several tested positive for asbestos and were decontaminated, officials said.

But the majority were cleaned and returned to service, and union leaders charge that they still pose a health risk to firefighters.

Fire Department officials said an independent consultant tested the trucks and found no health risk, and that full-scale decontamination is not necessary.

But Uniformed Firefighters Association officials said they were concerned that the Environmental Protection Agency had decided to destroy hundreds of private vehicles recovered at the site that had tested positive for asbestos.

"We have a lot of guys with respiratory problems and they are riding around with all kinds of dust in the rigs," Thomas Manley, a union health officer, told The New York Times.

"There is no doubt that some of it's asbestos."

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