

THE UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY IS ESTABLISHING A HOTLINE TO ADDRESS THE NEEDS OF RESIDENTS IN LOWER MANHATTAN REGARDING THE CLEANUP AND TESTING OF HOMES AND APARTMENTS SOUTH OF CANAL STREET AND THE MANHATTAN BRIDGE APPROACH.

***BEGINNING MAY 30TH*, RESIDENTS WILL BE ABLE TO REGISTER FOR INDOOR CLEANUP AND TESTING SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE EPA VIA THIS HOTLINE AND ALSO THROUGH THEIR WEBSITE, WWW.E-P-A.GOV.**

THE E-P-A WILL NOT TAKE INFORMATION FROM CALLERS UNTIL MAY 30TH. PRIOR TO THAT DATE, THE HOTLINE NUMBER WILL BE PUBLICIZED THROUGH THE MEDIA AND BY OTHER MEANS; THE HOTLINE NUMBER HAS NOT YET BEEN SET UP.

RESIDENTS MAY ALSO LOG ON TO THE E-P-A'S WEBSITE FOR FURTHER INFORMATION.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS HOTLINE WILL BE MAINTAINED EXCLUSIVELY BY THE UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY.



THE CITY OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
NEW YORK, NY 10007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MAYOR MICHAEL R. BLOOMBERG AND SENATOR HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON ANNOUNCE DOWNTOWN AIR QUALITY TASK FORCE

Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg was joined by United States Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton today to announce the formation of the Lower Manhattan Air Quality Task Force to oversee environmental issues in and around the World Trade Center site. The Task Force will be led by the Office of Emergency Management (OEM) and will coordinate the activities of City agencies concerned with Lower Manhattan's environmental safety. Federal and State agencies will be invited to participate and the City will continue to work with the Environmental Protection Agency on air quality issues. OEM will establish a hotline staffed by employees of the New York City Department of Health and the NYC Department of Environmental Protection to answer questions and provide information on the environmental conditions in downtown Manhattan. Dr. James Miller of the Department of Health will support the Task Force on health and safety issues.

"Public confidence in the air quality around the World Trade Center site is essential to the revitalization and economic growth of downtown," said Mayor Bloomberg. "We cannot attract residents and businesses back into Lower Manhattan unless they know they are safe. The Office of Emergency Management will take the lead to make sure that the most up to date information is available and disseminated to assist the community in accessing the resources to ensure their offices and homes are clean and safe."

"I applaud Mayor Bloomberg for his leadership in taking this important step to ensure that the air downtown New Yorkers are breathing in their homes and workplaces is clean and safe. Information is the key to confidence, and confidence is the key to redevelopment and economic prosperity in Lower Manhattan," said Senator Clinton. "I am also pleased that following the hearing I held on World Trade Center Air quality last month, EPA Administrator Whitman committed to establish an Indoor Air Task Force at the federal level. Workers and residents in downtown Manhattan can be certain that all levels of government are joined in the effort to make certain the air they are breathing is healthy."

(more)

- From: Sudhir Jain [SMTP:s_jain@ix.netcom.com]
- > Sent: Monday, March 11, 2002 10:42 PM
- > To: LMTCPartners@runtime.com
- > Subject: FW: CALL THE CITY'S AIR QUALITY HOTLINE (212) 221-8635
- >>>> -----Original Message-----
- > From: Xrodes@aol.com [SMTP:Xrodes@aol.com]
- > Sent: Monday, March 11, 2002 9:56 AM
- > To: s_jain@ix.netcom.com; mhughes@goles.org; mchristopherles@yahoo.com; >
LMRRC911@yahoo.com; asg@agarchitect.com; saronowitz@igc.org
- > Subject: CALL THE CITY'S AIR QUALITY HOTLINE (212) 221-8635
-
- Dear Everyone—
- The City's Air Quality Hotline, run by the Office of Emergency Management (OEM), begins taking calls today (March 11). That number is (212) 221-8635. As the NY Times reported, the phone line will operate Monday through Friday from 11 am to 7 pm. We should spread the word that everyone needs to start calling with their requests for info, clean-up and also accounts of health effects. (If they won't accept and agree to make a record of your health complaints, ask them whom you should call to make such a report. Ask them when the Health Registry will be up and running.) Ask them when the barge will be moved. Please take notes. When you get off the phone, write down the conversation as completely as you can, with the date and time of the call. At the City Council hearing last Friday, Council member Christine Quinn was very interested in knowing how well this hotline would work--and I think we should give her a full report. Also it's important that folks who speak Chinese and Spanish call, and then let everyone know whether the city has made provision for non-English speaking communities.
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- (FYI, The OEM has run hotlines in the last few summers to answer questions and address concerns about West Nile Virus and the pesticides the city was using, and to provide info on spray schedules. The Law Project has received many reports from residents about incorrect information, from unreliable spray schedules, to bad advice and inaccurate info about the pesticides. More than a week into the 1999 spray campaign, a Queens resident who had been directly sprayed discovered, when she called the hotline for information about the pesticide, that the OEM, which ran the campaign, did not even have the Material Safety Data Sheet for malathion--despite the fact that OEM was required by law to have it in their possession as soon as they started applying the pesticide.)
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- Kimberly Flynn, NY Env. Law and Justice Project

CALL
↓
HIT TRANSFER
↓
STAL 9-704-5115

Name of Operator _____ Date: _____ Time: _____

Category: (circle one)

Environment	Cleaning	Health	Indoor Air
Specific Contaminant	School	Old WTC	Other _____

Questions:

Answers:

Comments:

Caller Information:

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Address 1: _____ Apt: _____

Address 2: _____ Borough: _____

City _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone #1 (____) _____ Phone #2 (____) _____

Follow up:

Referral/Follow Up Needed? (circle one) YES NO

Referral Agency/Organization: _____

DEP Reference # _____