

The following are some examples of questions raised by community residents regarding environment, health, and quality of life in Lower Manhattan

I. BUILDING RELATED ISSUES

A. Landlords/Enforcement

- How do I know my landlord had the HVAC (Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning) system properly cleaned?
- Are there written protocols as to how to clean HVAC systems?
- What can I do about buildings that have not been cleaned yet (roofs, window sills, fire escapes, lobbies, hallways)? What agency enforces building cleaning?
- My landlord had the building cleaned back in September but he has not done anything since, who can I call to make sure he continues to clean?
- Terraces & balconies: Who is responsible for cleaning? Is it safe to clean the terrace if there is a lot of dust? What can I do if cleaned my terrace but others in my building have not and the dust blows into my apartment?

B. Cleaning

- Does the Department have any recommendations about which brands of HEPAvac + Air Purifiers provide the best safety features?
- How can people who live north of Canal St. obtain a free HEPAvac and/or Air Purifier
- Technical questions such as: Is an Ionizer as effective as a HEPA filter? What is the difference between an Avena purifier vs. a HEPA filter?
- Why are people not routinely recommended to wear a mask while cleaning?

C. Indoor Air Testing

- Will the Health Department conduct more indoor air testing? (will you come and test my apartment?)

- When will the final results of the ATSDR indoor air sampling be made available? What other substances besides asbestos and fiberglass are being analyzed?
- For how many hours did the air sampling occur in the ATSDR sampling? Don't particles and substances increase during the night hours?
- Why is there no mention of heavy metals tested indoors?
- Is lead still being tested?
- What companies conduct indoor air and dust testing?
- What standard is the Department using to determine "acceptable levels"? How do you answer the charge from others that the standards being used are not protective of health, given the unique circumstances of the WTC collapse?

D. Air Conditioners

- Is it safe to run air conditioners? How do you know if your air conditioner is contaminated? If there is dust settled on the outside will it enter into the air inside?
- How should they be cleaned?
- How often should filters be replaced?
- Can you buy a HEPA filter that will fit into an air conditioner? Some air conditioners are not compatible with HEPA filters.

II HEALTH RELATED ISSUES

A. Health Effects

- What is the DOH doing to protect residents' health? (Some people report that they have asthma as a result of the air, as well as other symptoms. While symptoms have decreased over the past few months, there remain concerns about coughs, upper respiratory stress, etc.)
- When will the registry be established? Will it study the health effects from environmental exposures? Will it look at all of the chemicals released like dioxin and benzene?

- A Mt. Sinai physician testified that he has seen patients 7 blocks from WTC with significant health effects (upper respiratory stress, asthma, etc.). What does that mean for other nearby residents downwind from the site?
- Do residents need to see a respiratory specialist for air exposure concerns?

B. Children

- Is it safe for children to breathe the air? Since they have smaller lungs and their bodies are still developing, do the standards for determining the health effects of toxins in the air take into account children's physical development?
- Different pediatricians are giving different assessments of the impact on children? What is DOH's position?
- In the indoor air testing why did we sample the air at adult breathing levels and not lower levels where young children breathe? (The Mt. Sinai doctor's testimony indicated that we should be more concerned about children's exposures and that we aren't doing enough)

C. Asbestos

- The indoor study found the presence of asbestos in the dust. Doesn't it take only one fiber of asbestos lodged in a lung to cause disease, and if so aren't we all at increased risk for disease?
- Don't we risk inhaling asbestos even if we wet clean and HEPAvac since the small fibers escape?
- Can toddlers ingest/inhale small asbestos fibers if they crawl on the rugs and floor (even though they have been cleaned)?

D. Communication with Local Health Providers

- Doctors are prescribing antibiotics for the WTC cough. Is this a proper treatment?
- What advice is the Health Department giving to local doctors?

- Is anyone collecting information from local doctors about the patients they are seeing?
- Are there recommendations for taking supplements to off set the effects of the dust and air?
- Why is the DOH not recommending that local residents be tested for toxins in the blood?

III OUTDOOR RELATED ISSUES

A. Outdoor Air Testing

- Who is doing research on the synergistic effects of the various toxic substances together in the air?
- Since the only standards for assessing the impact of asbestos are for occupational exposure over 20 years, does this mean that residents of Lower Manhattan could be more at risk for a shorter period of time since many people are in the area for 24 hour periods (NOT an 8 hour day like factory workers?)
- How do you respond to scientists who say that the standards being used to assess health impacts of asbestos are too low?

B. Parks

- Are local parks and playgrounds cleaned regularly? Can there be a sign posted as to when the park was last tested and cleaned?
- Is soil tested for asbestos and other toxic substances?

C. Debris Removal

- Trucks not always wetting down and putting tarps over debris, whom should they call to complain?
- Why can't the material on the trucks be containerized?

D. Barge

- Noise complaints: banging is keeping people awake at night, who should they call to complain
- Dust: Debris is being dispersed through the air

E. Streets

- Not all streets are being wetted down, which agency can I report this to?
- Battery Park City residents say dry sweepers are kicking up dust. There has been a change over the past several weeks and streets are no longer being wetted down.

F. Sidewalks

- What is being done to wet down sidewalks? Is this a landlord responsibility?
- For commercial areas who is responsible?

G. Other Outdoor Dust Issues

- Gardens, bushes, planters outside of buildings that have not been cleaned. Who is responsible for cleaning these?
- Dumpsters filled with WTC debris. Which agency should be called?
- What happened to the dangerous chemicals (e.g. diesel) that burned in the buildings? Were they burned up or are they still seeping into the ground?

IV OTHER ISSUES

A. Con Edison

- When will they be finished tearing up the streets?
- There are placing 5 more transformers in the sub station at South St. Seaport to replace the ones destroyed at 7 World Trade Center. What are the health effects of this increase in electric power capacity? What are effects of electric magnetic fields?

B. Homeless

- There has been an increase in homeless population throughout Lower Manhattan after 9/11, especially in the South St. Seaport area? Is anyone doing outreach w this population?