

Lower Manhattan
air quality
panel

INTERAGENCY RESPONSE TO LOWER MANHATTAN

Jan 25, 2001

Background

Generally residents want to know what property owners are responsible for. Most of the issues relate to cleaning, but also there is a lot of anxiety about testing as well as cleaning, particularly indoor air and dust. There is also a lot of concern among parents about what is being done with playgrounds and parks

Kelly
McKinney

Create an Interagency Coordinating Committee

OEM to coordinate and involve relevant city agencies - DEP, DOS, HPD, DOB, DOT, DPR, DDC, NYPD.

OPTION A – Coordinate and enhance existing complaint driven response by creating a unified response plan and a unified communication plan to include :

1. Define each agency's responsibility for responding to complaints including who would respond to each of the following and what the response would entail:
 - Cleaning outside of buildings: roofs, window sills, fire escapes
 - Cleaning inside of buildings: common areas, venting systems, air conditioning & heating systems
 - Cleaning outside of stores: dust on roofs, security gates
 - Cleaning sidewalks
 - Testing and cleaning sand boxes & dust on playgrounds
2. Establish a central phone number for residents, landlords, and commercial tenants to call for information and to make a complaint
3. Develop an enforcement strategy that will ensure that property owners and others believe that the City is serious about compliance with existing codes and specifically issued guidelines. Enforcement mechanisms may include: Commissioner's Orders, issuing violations, or other mechanisms which will compel owners to follow proper procedures. It is essential to track complaints, the findings and the City's response.
4. We should have clear procedures and guidance for each type of complaint that we anticipate. (i.e., if we want owners to be responsible for wetting down side walks, what is the proper method, how many times per day, etc.)
5. Make available educational information about proper cleaning methods