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September 16, 2001

CONTACT: (718/337-4357)

**Notice to Building Owners Located South of 14th Street, Manhattan****Building Maintenance Issues Involved in Reopening Buildings Closed Since 9/11/01**

**Air Circulation Systems:** Building owners are advised that air circulation systems not operated since Tuesday must have their filters replaced before the system is restarted. Systems should be run on a recirculated air setting and not on fresh air, if possible, until the WTC fire is extinguished.

**Asbestos or other Hazardous Materials situations:** Owners/managers should have possible contamination problems, indoors or at roofs, reviewed by competent professionals (i.e., R.A.s, P.E.s, Asbestos Inspectors, etc.) prior to beginning clean-up of buildings with maintenance personnel. Where no problems are noted, proceed with clean-up. Where problems (i.e., HazMat) are noted, contact DEP as indicated below.

All issues regarding air asbestos and/or hazardous material clean-up should be directed to the Department of Environmental Protection's complaint center at 1-718 DEP-HELP (337-4357). Help center operators will refer your call to Asbestos and Hazardous Materials staff from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. every day including weekends until such time as the Mayor's office declares the emergency over. Staff will review each case individually on the telephone and verbally approve clean-up activities--paperwork to follow. Emergency situations which arise outside of these time frames will be handled by help center staff taking down the caller's name and contact phone number and notifying personnel on stand-by who will then contact the caller directly.

**Open Water tanks:** Building owners are advised that water tanks not operated since Tuesday must be completely drained from the cellar, flushed, cleaned, refilled and plumbing systems flushed before having the building reoccupied. You should contact the water tank cleaner who normally performs this yearly operation for you to arrange for this cleaning, if possible.

All other water pressure, sewage, noise and air quality complaints should be directed to 1-718-DEP-HELP.

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NEW YORK CITY  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

NOTICE TO BUILDING OWNERS  
LOCATED SOUTH OF 14<sup>TH</sup> STREET, MANHATTAN

Building Maintenance Issues Involved in  
Reopening Buildings Closed Since Tuesday

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1-718 DEP-HELP



## Press Release

### New York City Department of Health

Office of Public Affairs

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Sandra Mullin/Greg Butler

Friday, October 5, 2001

(212) 295-5335/5336

## NYC HEALTH DEPARTMENT RESPONDS TO CONCERNS ABOUT AIR QUALITY IN LOWER MANHATTAN

New York City Health Commissioner Neal L. Cohen, M.D., today informed New Yorkers that despite the smoky conditions in areas of lower Manhattan that are close to the World Trade Center site, test results from the ongoing monitoring of airborne contaminants indicate that the levels continue to be below the level of concern to public health. Nonetheless, while debris continues to be disturbed, and while flare ups of smoke continue to permeate the downtown area, air testing results will continue to be monitored, and appropriate health recommendations will be issued as necessary.

Dr. Cohen added, "As work continues at the disaster site, the presence of dust and smoke odor in the downtown area has been of understandable concern to residents. However, air monitoring by Federal, State and City agencies has indicated that the levels of particulate matter being detected are below the level of public health concern and do not pose long-term health risks to the general public. Some individuals with underlying respiratory conditions, such as asthma, may experience exacerbation of symptoms, and other persons may also experience short-term discomfort including irritation of the eyes, nose, and throat."

In addition to air monitoring activities, efforts are being made daily to suppress dust and smoke at the World Trade Center disaster site. Results of daily dust sampling conducted by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is available online at [epa.gov](http://epa.gov). Fact sheets detailing Health Department recommendations pertaining to air quality, asbestos, safely re-occupying homes and buildings, and worker safety are available online at [nyc.gov/health](http://nyc.gov/health). For more information about all Health Department activities, New Yorkers can call (212) 227-5269.

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<http://nyc.gov/html/doh/html/public/press01/pr89-1005.html>

10/25/01