

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Thomas R. Frieden, Commissioner
Department of Health

FROM: Diana Chapin, First Deputy Commissioner
Department of Environmental Protection

DATE: April 3, 2002

SUBJECT: World Trade Center Activities Conducted by DEP

After our recent conversation, I thought it might be helpful to have our staff put together a chronology of some of the WTC activities conducted by DEP.

- DEP HazMat and air quality staff immediately responded and made preliminary assessments of conditions
- Coordinated cleanup activities of streets, sidewalks, and exterior common areas with OEM, EPA, DOS and NYCDOH
- EPA and DEP contractors conducted street cleanups by using HEPA vacs and DEP directed and monitored cleanup activities.
- Developed and distributed advisories for owners for both exterior and interior maintenance issues involved in reopening buildings.
- Set up air quality monitors at numerous sites in and around ground zero beginning September 11th.
- Set up air quality monitors at four school locations near the WTC from October 4th.
- Set up air quality monitors in the five boroughs from September 14th-October 1st.
- Set up a special telephone in Asbestos Unit to assist building owners, tenants and contractors with inquiries which was manned 12 hours a day, 7 days a week for 2 months. (Separate and apart from our 24 hour (718) DEP Helpline.)
- Performed site visits to review activities (both exterior and interior) conducted by building owners both on request of owner, citizen complaint and general oversight.
- Performed at least one inspection of all (asbestos project) ACP7 notifications filed by building owners (To date, 34 building owners have filed ACP7 notifications.)
- Responded to telephone complaints from the public regarding debris/dust in apartments. As of today, DEP has received over 159 indoor complaints and has resolved 152 with 7 ongoing. In 151 cases, no visible debris was

evident. In 1 case, debris was evident enough to take a sample (from a windowsill) and that sample was positive. The landlord was verbally ordered to conduct an asbestos cleanup, and complied.

- In January/February of this year DEP, with assistance from EPA and State DOL, surveyed 452 building exteriors in the downtown area (Hudson River to Pearl Street and Chambers Street to Rector Place and Beaver Street). Approximately 211 buildings were identified as having varying amounts of debris on the exterior, which was congealed and appeared to be residual debris from the WTC.
- In addition, DEP sent specific information regarding the survey results to those 211 buildings identified as having debris on the exterior and requested that the owners assess the debris and conduct a cleanup based on the assessment.
- In January/February, DEP sent letters to all 452 building owners in that area requesting information regarding assessments and cleanup procedures conducted by owners both indoor and outdoor.
- As a result of our mailing to the 452 buildings, DEP has received 269 responses from building owners, with the following results for asbestos in indoor spaces:

	Total	Positive (asbestos)
Bulk samples	2622	164
Air		
PCM	77,675	863
TEM	41,425	197

Please note, building owners have supplied data on other contaminants but DEP has not yet been able to collate them.

- As a result of our second mailing, owners have mailed information back to DEP that they have performed additional exterior cleanups. To date, DEP has verified 12 buildings in which an additional exterior cleanup was conducted. This is still ongoing.
- In March, DEP sampled 44 of the exterior of buildings identified as having debris and found that 22 tested positive for asbestos.
- DEP is currently working with EPA to create an exterior building cleanup based on their earlier surveys. Contracts for the exterior cleanup are to be awarded this week. Air monitoring contracts are already in place. This is to be done with FEMA funding.

Attachment