

DRAFT
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

As we discussed last night, I had staff put together a chronology of some of the WTC activities conducted by DEP.

- Initial response and assessment.
- Coordinated with OEM, EPA, DOS and DOH for cleanup activities of streets, sidewalks, and common areas.
- EPA contractors conducted street cleanup by using HEPA vacs and wearing proper PPE.
- DEP contractors conducted street cleanup using HEPA vacs and proper PPE (very limited).
- Developed and distributed an advisory (see attached).

Please note the following language used in our advisory:

wipe samples
Please note that use of wet-wiping and micro vacuuming are not recognized methods for asbestos sampling and should not be used.

- Set up a special telephone Asbestos-assistance Unit to help building owners, tenants and contractors with inquiries which had been manned 12 hours a day, 7 days a week for 2 months.
- Performed site visits to determine activities conducted by building owners.
- 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 on asbestos cleanup and he 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 WTC debris.
- In January/February, DEP sent letters to all 452 building owners in that area requesting information regarding assessments and cleanup procedures conducted by owners.
- In addition, DEP sent specific information regarding the survey results to those 211 buildings identified as having debris and requested that the owners assess the debris and conduct a cleanup based on the assessment.
- As a result of our mailing to the 452 buildings, DEP has received 269 responses from building owners, with the following results for asbestos:

	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 cleanups. To date, DEP has verified 12 buildings in which a cleanup was conducted. This is still ongoing.
- In March, DEP sampled 44 of those buildings identified as having WTC debris and found that 22 tested positive for asbestos containing material.

Attachment

Hot Topics

World Trade Center related activities

- **US EPA Indoor Air Task Force**

Staff from the Bureau of Environmental Compliance (BEC) has attended one meeting and plans to attend another on Wednesday 2/27/02. This task force is headed by US EPA and includes State and City agencies (see proposed activities attached).

- **NYC Mayor's Office of Environmental Coordination Task Force**

BEC staff has attended several meetings regarding establishing a unified New York City response to questions being asked by downtown residents. An 800 line with scripted questions and answers is under discussion and would be coordinated by OEM. The Department of Environmental Protection and Department of Health would lend staff to this effort.

Since Senator Clinton's hearing on indoor air, the Department has received 52 complaints since 2/11/02, and 42 have been resolved as of 2/27/02. Multiple attempts have been made to contact the remaining, and we will continue our efforts.

- **Exterior Inspections of World Trade Center Debris**

Since late January, BEC has been conducting surveys of buildings for debris on roofs, facades and setbacks. Currently, two phases are ongoing. Area I: West of Broadway to the Hudson River, Chambers Street to the North and Battery Place to the South. Area II: Broadway to Pearl Street (East), from the Brooklyn Bridge on the North to Beaver Street on the South.

Approximately 435 buildings have been surveyed from Chambers Street/Brooklyn Bridge (Northern boundary) from Hudson River (Western boundary) to Pearl Street (Eastern Boundary) to Rector Place and Beaver Street (Southern boundary). All building owners have been requested to supply DEP with information on their cleanup activities. Based on the information received and on follow-up inspections (which are ongoing) DEP will issue Commissioner's Orders to those buildings with debris that sample results show asbestos containing material.