

Avaltroni, Robert

From: Blatchford, Laurel [L.Blatchford@cityhall.nyc.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, October 01, 2002 6:48 PM
To: Bob Avaltroni (E-mail)
Cc: Greenberger, Sharon; Justin Blake (E-mail)
Subject: FW: Article on Residential Clean-up

Bob,

As per our discussion earlier today, here is the story that Edelman has put together for us to review. Please give me a call tomorrow AM once you've looked it over. Thanks

Laurel

-----Original Message-----

From: Blake, Justin [mailto:Justin.Blake@edelman.com]
Sent: Tuesday, October 01, 2002 6:45 PM
To: 'Blatchford, Laurel'
Subject: Article on Residential Clean-up

For your meeting with Bob. Attached and embedded (with a space for an EPA quote). GO YANKS!

Residential Cleanup Deadline Extended Until 12/28/02

To ensure that all eligible New Yorkers concerned about dust and debris that accumulated in their homes as a result of the World Trade Center (WTC) collapse have the opportunity to register for apartment cleaning and/or testing, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), FEMA, and City of New York have extended the registration deadline for the Residential Dust Cleanup Program to December 28, 2002. The original deadline was October 3, 2002.

To date, only about a quarter of the residents who are eligible for this program have registered. The most likely reason, according to EPA officials, is that people still don't know the offer exists.

[Insert quote from EPA about importance of the program and why they felt it necessary to extend deadline.]
 About the Program Under this program, residents living south of Canal, Allen and Pike Streets may request the following:

- That their residence be professionally cleaned and then tested for asbestos in the air (if asbestos is still present, their home will be re-cleaned), OR
- That their residence be first tested for asbestos in the air without professional cleaning. If asbestos is found above the level that EPA has established to protect public health, they may ask that their residence be professionally cleaned.
- Reimbursement by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for a high efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filter vacuum, if they have not already been reimbursed for one by FEMA.

Contractors to Conduct Thorough Testing and Cleanup

Some dust from the WTC collapse has been shown to contain asbestos and other contaminants. EPA believes this action-oriented cleanup and testing program will reduce the risk of possible long-term exposure and related health effects.

EPA contractors will thoroughly test and clean the interiors of apartments and common spaces, such as

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hallways, stairwells, lobbies and elevator shafts (if requested). Rugs, carpets, curtains, drapes, upholstered furnishings and all hard surfaces, including walls, floors and shelves, will be cleaned with HEPA filter vacuums. Contractors also will clean balconies or terraces, window guards and smoke alarms. Individual air conditioners will be cleaned in place, and the EPA will seek the building owner's/manager's permission to evaluate the HVAC (Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning) systems.

To ensure the indoor air is clean, EPA will test for asbestos after cleanups are completed, as well as in residences where people want testing without cleaning. Most residences will be cleaned in about two days, and testing for asbestos will take an additional day.

How to Sign Up

To request cleanup and/or testing, sign up on the EPA's website or call the toll-free hotline at 1-877-796-5471. Names and addresses will not be made public. Residents can check on the status of their requests by checking the EPA website or calling the toll-free hotline. (You will be asked for the confirmation number given to you at the time of your request.)

Homes south of Canal, Allen and Pike Streets are eligible Program Gives Extra Assurance

There's no need to be concerned that initial cleanup efforts, including wet wiping, wet mopping and using HEPA filter vacuums, were insufficient. EPA is offering professional testing and cleanup services to provide an added level of assurance that residences have been properly cleaned.

Beware Phony Contractors

Beware of people who falsely claim to be contractors working on the EPA's Lower Manhattan Dust Cleanup Program. The names of the contractors selected by EPA can be found on the EPA website, the EPA's WTC Email Notification Service and through community organizations and the news media.

The contractors will be able to provide your confirmation number (the number you receive when signing up for assistance) as proof they are legitimate. Do not reveal your confirmation number to anyone who claims they need it. EPA, the City and their contractors will never ask you for this number.

If you have additional questions regarding the EPA Residential Dust Cleanup Program, visit the EPA website for the answers to frequently asked questions.