

THE CITY OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Air, Noise and Hazardous Materials

Air Monitoring in Lower Manhattan

DEP is monitoring the ambient outdoor air for asbestos. This effort is augmenting ambient air asbestos sampling being done by the EPA and other state and city agencies. There is currently no outdoor ambient standard for asbestos. The US and NYC standard for asbestos in community and residential buildings is 0.01 fibers/cubic centimeter (f/cc) in indoor air. An indoor area which has had asbestos detected and then removed must show that air samples are at or below the 0.01 f/cc standard before the indoor area can be re-occupied. Although the ambient outdoor air is being monitored, DEP is using this value as a way to characterize the levels of asbestos in the air.

Since the measurement protocol used, phase contrast microscopy (PCM), counts fibers, DEP is also conducting an additional analysis for all samples that are above 0.01 f/cc. This measurement protocol is called transmission electron microscopy (TEM) and counts the number of asbestos fibers in the sample. EPA is reporting their data in TEMs, and provides a good explanation of the interpretation of the standard that uses this methodology on their website.

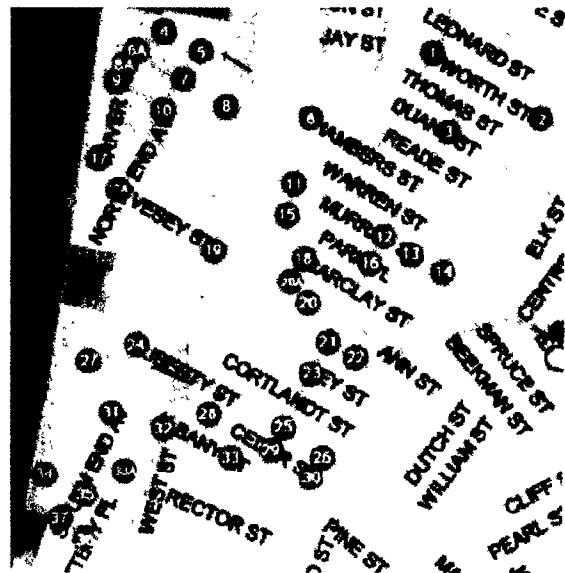
Results indicate that, as expected, asbestos is present in some of the debris at the site and in areas very close to the site. Between September 28, 2001 and the present, the vast majority of air sampling results outside the security zone have been below the standards for asbestos in indoor air.

As testing continues, there may be the possibility of occasional short-term increases in levels of asbestos in the air above the residential standard of 0.01 f/cc of air. When the measured level for the outdoor ambient air is above 0.01 f/cc, the samples will be analyzed to determine how many of the fibers are actually asbestos fibers.

To view recent air monitoring results, click on a sampling location below or on the map (Links will open in a new browser window):

Sampling Site Location

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 West Broadway and Worth Street | 19 Vesey and West Street |
| 2 Broadway and Worth Street | 20 Vesey between Church and Greenwich Street |
| 3 Duane Street and Trimble Place | 20A Vesey and West Broadway |
| 4 River Terrace and Chambers Street | 21 Fulton and Church Street |
| 5 Chambers and North End Avenue | 22 Fulton between Church and Broadway |
| 6 Greenwich and Chambers Street | 23 Church and Dey Street |
| 6A West end of Warren Street | 24 Liberty Street and South End Avenue |
| 7 Warren Street and North End Avenue | 25 Liberty and Church Street |
| 8 West Street and Warren Street | 26 Liberty and Broadway |
| 8A River Terrace Park area between Park Place and Warren Street | 27 Gateway Plaza Park Area |
| 9 River Terrace and Park Place West | 28 Washington and Cedar Street |



10	<u>North End Avenue and Park Place West</u>	29	<u>Trinity Place and Thames Street</u>
11	<u>Murray and Greenwich Street</u>	30	<u>Cedar and Broadway</u>
12	<u>Murray and Church Street</u>	31	<u>South End Avenue and Albany Street</u>
13	<u>Murray between Church and Broadway</u>	32	<u>West Street and Albany</u>
14	<u>Broadway and Murray Street</u>	33	<u>Albany and Greenwich</u>
15	<u>Park Place and Greenwich Street</u>	33A	<u>Rector Place by the park</u>
16	<u>Park Place and Church Street</u>	34	<u>West Thames Street - along waterfront</u>
17	<u>River Terrace and Vesey Street</u>	35	<u>South End Avenue and Thames Street</u>
17A	<u>North End Avenue and Vesey Street</u>	36	<u>Third Place and Battery Place - waterside</u>
18	<u>Barclay and West Broadway</u>	37	<u>West of Third Place (South Cove Apartment)</u>

School Monitoring Data

DEP worked with the involved City agencies, including the Board of Education, to provide air monitoring in and around the schools near the World Trade Center disaster site. DEP collected 8 hour ambient air samples that were analyzed for asbestos at four locations. These locations were outside of the main entrances to: Stuyvesant High School, IS/PS 89, PS 234 and the High School of Economics and Finance. DEP began sampling on October 4, 2001, and completed sampling on June 30, 2002. From October 4th through October 18th, DEP only did a TEM analysis if the PCM concentration was above 0.01 fibers per cubic centimeter (f/cc). During this period of time, there was only one reading above 0.01 f/cc. The TEM result was below the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA) standard of 70 structures per square millimeter (s/sqmm). As of October 19, DEP began conducting a TEM analysis on all samples to provide a direct comparison to the AHERA standard. Between October 19 and June 30, 2002, all samples were well below the AHERA standard of 70 s/sqmm.

School Monitoring Data ►

Additional Information

- [Advisory for Building Façade Clean-up](#)
- [Notice to Building Owners Located South of 14th Street, Manhattan: Building Maintenance Issues Involved in Reopening Buildings Closed Since 9/11/01](#)
- [New York City Department of Health Responds to the World Trade Center Disaster](#)
- [New York City Department of Health Asbestos Fact Sheet](#)

Last updated August 12, 2002

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- [Air monitoring in Lower Manhattan](#)
- [Certified Asbestos Investigators, Contractors and Firms](#)
- [Asbestos Rules and Regulations](#)
- [Asbestos Abatement Activity Forms](#)



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<http://www.nyc.gov/html/dep/html/airmonit.html>

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