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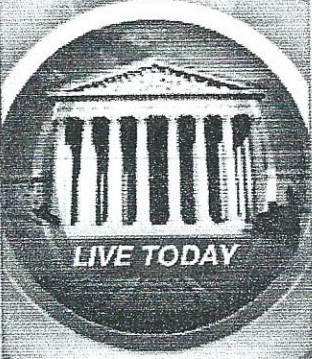
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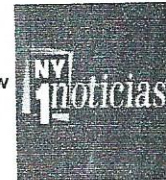
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**Last WTC Beam Is Cut Down
Lone Beam From South Tower
Cut Off, Marking End Of
Recovery Effort**

at the site.

"Our results showed that, in fact, for the average person in New York City, it was not much of a problem. The real problem appears to be people who are working at or very close to the site, who were in fact inhaling these particles pretty much continuously," said Davis, a physicist and international authority on air pollution.

"The particles are very fine, so fine that they go deep into the lung, and their elemental ratios and the materials with them were not characteristic of ambient air," he added.

The yearlong investigation by the Office of Inspector General will determine whether air pollution monitoring data from the collapse site and surrounding areas supports what the EPA told the public about the health risks.

EPA officials declined comment Friday.

"It is inappropriate for the EPA to be commenting on a document that is not final and that is being done independently," said Lisa Harrison, the agency's press secretary.

The EPA has come under criticism from inside and outside the agency over its public pronouncements on air quality around Ground Zero.

"In a way we had information that was not available to the U.S. EPA, but in addition, there was honest-to-goodness uncertainty about whether the material that we were seeing (was) coming from the site," said Cahill, explaining the difference in the EPA's findings and UC-Davis'. "Were there other sites around? It took awhile to understand that."

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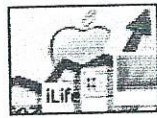
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Ground Zero Air Wasn't That Safe?

March 17, 2003



Firefighters at Ground Zero (AP)

(CBS) Ground Zero tests by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in the days immediately after the World Trade Center collapse did not support the agency's own statements the air around the site was safe to breathe, a newspaper reported.

A report by the EPA's Office of Inspector General said the agency reached its conclusion on the safety of the air using a cancer risk level 100 times greater than what it normally considers acceptable for public exposure to toxic contaminants.

QUOTE

"To say that it's safe, which suggests no risk, we just knew that was wrong."

Jonathan Bennett,
 New York Committee for Occupational Safety and Health

The status report, obtained by The Sacramento Bee, supports the views of some doctors and public health advocates who evaluated thousands of firefighters, volunteers, demolition

workers and laborers working on the site.

"To say that it's safe, which suggests no risk, we just knew that was wrong," said Jonathan Bennett, a spokesman for the New York Committee for Occupational Safety and Health.

"We felt, based upon the measurements that we had made away a mile away from the site, that the materials coming off of the hot collapse pile were much dangerous in fact than we had generally been led to believe," Thomas Cahill, who led a University of California-Davis study, told **CBS Radio News**.

The status report summarizes preliminary conclusions. It is expected to be published in May and a spokesman for the inspector general said the findings could change before publication. The Office of Inspector General is an independent investigative office that reports directly to Congress.

Of 3,500 Ground Zero workers screened nearly a year after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, more than half continued to suffer from lung, ear, nose and throat problems, according to a study released in January by Mount Sinai Medical Center in New York.

About 40,000 workers were involved in the rescue, recovery and cleanup efforts

Collapse Not As Bad As Thought

Even for those with no symptoms, the longer-term effects of exposure are unknown.

September11victims.com

"People should be monitored, who knows what can surface from this in a few years," New York Police Officer George Sabando said. "Hopefully down the road, we'll see that we're all okay — I hope."

Currently, the U.S. Congress has set aside money for a long-term follow-up program. The New York City Health Department has created a registry to track the long-term health problems that could possibly surface over time as a result of the inhalation of toxic substances at Ground Zero.

Also, many with health problems from exposure to the dust at Ground Zero are struggling because their worker's compensation are being processed slowly. Some men and women are using whatever resources at their disposal. Some, however, have lost their jobs as a result of their ailments, which may compound the problem.

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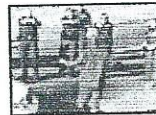
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Union Claims Detective's Death Result Of Clean-Up Work At WTC Site

January 08, 2006

The NYPD detectives union says the death of one of its retired members is a direct result of his work at the World Trade Center site.

Thirty-four-year-old James Zadroga died Thursday from brain and respiratory complications. Union officials say his ailments were from exposure to hazardous material.

The detective spent hundreds of hours searching for victims at the World Trade Center site in 2001. About a year after the attacks, he became too sick to work and retired from the NYPD.

Michael Palladino, the head of the Detectives Endowment Association, says there are many more who may die because of their work following the terror attacks.

"Many first responders are sick, some more than others," says Palladino. "Detective Zadroga is the first, but unfortunately I do not think he is going to be the last."

The Police Department says Zadroga began receiving disability payments in 2004 and also attributes his injuries to 9/11.

A wake for Zadroga is being held Sunday and Monday in New Jersey. His funeral is planned for Tuesday morning. The NYPD says its honor guard will be attending the funeral.

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Ground Zero hero, 34, dies

BY LINDSAY FABER
STAFF WRITER

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January 8, 2006

A young police detective who spent nearly 500 hours sifting through rubble at Ground Zero has died of complications connected to his cleanup efforts, police union officials said yesterday.

James Zadroga, 34, who died Thursday at his parents' New Jersey home, retired from the NYPD in July of his deteriorating health. He is the first emergency worker to die from constant exposure to the Sept. 11 attacks at the World Trade Center, said Michael Palladino, president of the Detectives' Endowment Association.

A high-ranking police source said the department has the medical authority to link Zadroga's collapse to his work at Ground Zero.


An autopsy was being done by the Ocean County medical examiner's office.

Zadroga was inside Building 7 at the World Trade Center when it began to collapse on the afternoon of Sept. 11, 2001. After narrowly escaping death, he spent several hours over the next month and a half at the site sifting for victims amid tons of debris and dirt, Palladino said.

According to Palladino, many detectives never left the site beyond their daily tours of duty, working 12-hour shifts.

Zadroga became ill about a month after returning to his Manhattan South Precinct in late 2001. He died last week at his parents' home in Little Egg Harbor, N.J., of black lung disease and mercury on the brain, Palladino said.

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Zadroga joined the force in January 1994, working in the street crime unit of Greenwich Village's Sixth Precinct, the Bronx anti-crime unit, the 25th detective squad in Harlem and the Manhattan South homicide task force.

Zadroga's wife died in 2004. He is survived by his 4-year-old daughter, his parents and his brother. His funeral is scheduled for Tuesday morning in North Arlington, N.J.

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Ground Zero Workers' Health Cloudy

NEW YORK, Sept. 11, 2003



(CBS/The Early Show)

(CBS) Many of the estimated 30,000 to 40,000 people who volunteered or worked at Ground Zero in the aftermath of Sept. 11 have reported developing health problems that still persist today.

The Early Show Medical Correspondent Dr. Emily Senay talked to a few who are trying to cope with their respiratory problem.

Volunteer rescue worker John Graham of Paramus, N.J. was among the first responders to the attack on the New York City's World Trade Center. He was engulfed by the cloud of debris when the first tower collapsed.

"We just saw the cloud come down and there was a big gust of air that broke out all the windows," Graham said. "There was so much of it you actually gagged on it."

Like many others, Graham is now paying the price for his good deeds. The rescue worker said he has reactive airway disease, asthma and his throat feels burnt.

"It's slowed me down a lot," Graham said. "I'm not as active a father as I was."

Experts say the health problems are due to exposure to a toxic cocktail of poisonous particles such as glass, cement, fiberglass, asbestos, jet fuel and other combustion products in the air at Ground Zero.

"The reports and the EPA's press releases tended to accentuate the positive and not give the whole picture," Dr. Jacqueline Moline said.

Moline heads the WTC Screening Program at Mt. Sinai Hospital to identify and track health problems among Ground Zero workers.

"We've seen about 7,500 individuals thus far in our screening program and we know that over half of them are affected," he said. "They still have physical complaints."

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EPA Hit With Ground Zero Lawsuit

NEW YORK, March 11, 2004



(AP) Residents and workers in lower Manhattan and Brooklyn sued the Environmental Protection Agency on Wednesday, saying the agency improperly let thousands of people return to their homes and businesses after the World Trade Center collapsed.

The lawsuit filed in U.S. District Court in Manhattan accused the agency of making misleading statements about air quality after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

The lawsuit, which seeks class-action status, said the EPA left people "unnecessarily exposed to potentially hazardous levels of asbestos and possibly other carcinogens and toxic substances."

It accused the agency and its leaders, including former EPA Administrator Christie Whitman,

The firefighters, police and others who spent months at Ground Zero searching for bodies weren't the only ones exposed to unusual pollutants in the air. (AP)

QUOTE

Many of the estimated 30,000 to 40,000 people who volunteered or worked at Ground Zero in the aftermath of Sept. 11 have reported developing health problems that were still present two years later.

of "a shockingly deliberate indifference to human health."

The lawsuit seeks unspecified damages and reimbursement for cleanup and asks the court to order a fund be set up to finance medical monitoring for conditions resulting from exposure to trade center dust.

The agency, in a statement, said it had not seen the lawsuit and could not comment directly on it, but defended its staff's "remarkable feats" after the attacks - including the monitoring and sampling of air, dust, and river and drinking water.

The EPA also said it provided thousands of respirators for response workers, conducted studies of indoor cleaning methods, and cleaned and tested thousands of homes in lower Manhattan.

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