

## TOXIC DEBRIS & TOXIC AIR, COUGHS & CANCERS

The collapse of the World Trade Center towers immediately released concrete, mercury, asbestos, and lead into the air, and smoke from chemical fires contaminated the air for many months. These toxins seeped into offices, apartments, furniture, and people's bodies.

Over six years after 9/11, many New Yorkers are sick and getting sicker from this toxic fallout. They suffer from asthma, lung damage, frequent colds, skin rashes, stomach problems, gynecological problems, anxiety, and depression. Others are developing more serious conditions, like neurological problems and cancers. No one knows the long-term effects of exposure to these World Trade Center toxins.



## GOVERNMENT LIES

Days after 9/11, then EPA Administrator Christine Todd Whitman told the nation, "I am glad to reassure the people of New York and Washington, D.C. that their air is safe to breathe and their water is safe to drink." Members of the Bush administration and other government officials said similar things to workers, residents, and students without data from proper testing.

These lies were meant to get New York City back on its feet and back to business as usual. Office and service workers were called back to work within a week of the disaster; residents and students were encouraged to return home and get back to school. Some 40,000 cleanup workers were hired to clean up the mess, often working double shifts, seven days a week.

The government's lies convinced thousands of workers and residents to inhale, touch, and ingest toxic air and materials, leading to the serious health problems we see today.

## BEYOND GROUND ZERO

The Beyond Ground Zero Network (BGZ) is a coalition of community-based workers' groups and legal and health advocacy organizations that came together shortly after September 11, 2001 to address the severe health and economic impact of the World Trade Center collapse on Lower Manhattan's low-income communities, especially Chinatown and the Lower East Side.

BGZ's member groups include:

Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund  
Chinese Staff and Workers Association  
Commission on the Public's Health System  
National Mobilization Against Sweatshops  
Urban Justice Center's Community Development Project



in remembrance of lives lost

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# Beyond GROUND ZERO

Organizing  
for healthy communities  
& government accountability  
in the wake of 9/11

