



Named Best Online Newspaper in Nation



Sep 7

Browse the ads in today's newspaper

SUBSCRIBE | ARCHIVES | CALENDAR | WEBGUIDE | SITEMAP | HELP?

NEWS SPORTS ENTERTAINMENT FEATURES MULTIMEDIA CLASSIFIEDS VISITOR'S GUIDE

Home > News > Terrorist attacks

Workers at WTC site should see doctors for health complications, advocates say

Last Modified:
4:03 a.m. 11/4/2001

By Donna de la Cruz
The Associated Press

NEW YORK -- Firefighters who have worked at the World Trade Center site since the Sept. 11 attacks were examined Saturday for respiratory and other health problems.

Health and safety concerns were among the reasons cited by city officials this past week when they ordered a sharp cutback in the number of firefighters and cops working at the site.

Hundreds of angry firefighters rallied Friday to protest the decision to reduce the staffing at the site. A dozen were arrested. All charges against two were dismissed and the most serious charges against the others also were dropped.

- Print this**
- E-mail this**
- Discuss this**
- Send Editor Comment**

Some rescue workers have complained about not being able to shake a persistent, annoying cough that has been dubbed "World Trade Center cough."

Health and environmental officials say toxic chemicals escaping from the rubble exceed federal safety standards, although there are no indications of any serious or long-term health risks.

The New York Environmental Law and Justice Project, a nonprofit advocacy group, urged all rescue workers who worked prolonged periods at the trade center site to see a doctor.

"Several police officers have already been diagnosed with occupational asthma and upper respiratory problems," said Joel Kupferman, director of the organization. "Rescue workers should definitely go see a doctor."

Medical screenings for some of the nearly 11,000 firefighters who have been at the site began at department headquarters last week. Police officers who had been at Ground Zero also are eligible for free medical screenings, said Joe Mancini, a spokesman for the

News Menu

- > Topeka
- > Kansas
- > Legislature
- > Business
- > Obituaries
- > Daily Record
- > US & World
- > Washburn
- > Opinions
- > E-mail Edition
- > AP Wire
- > Stocks
- > Health
- > Las Noticias
- > Iraq
- > Jefferson Awards
- > Weather
- > All Headlines
- > Lottery numbers
- > Our Town: Topeka
- > Restaurant inspections
- > Web-in-Depth
- > Forums
- > Spelling Bee
- > City of Character

STORIES SEARCH

Provided by:

[Washburn University](#)

! Breaking News

FROM THE AP WIRE

Bush seeking \$87B to fight terror abroad
 Eleven wounded in fresh attack on Gaza
 Sen. Edwards: I will not seek re-election
 U.S. troops find weapons cache in Tikrit
 Afghan troops prepare to attack Taliban
 London police simulate chemical attack

[» MORE BREAKING NEWS](#)

Patrolmen's Benevolent Association.

The fire department also has distributed 7,000 respirators to protect firefighters from airborne contaminants. The police department hasn't distributed respirators, but has given officers high-quality filter masks.

Kathleen Callahan, deputy regional director of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, said workers at the site are adequately protected if they wear respirators.

"Some people may think this (disaster) is over, but it's not over to us. We're not getting on with our lives. We still have brothers who need to be brought home," said firefighter Will Hickey, one of those at Friday's rally.

On the Net:

New York Environmental Law and Justice Project: <http://www.nyenvirolaw.org/>

Patrolmen's Benevolent Association: <http://www.nycpba.org/>

Environmental Protection Agency: <http://www.epa.gov/>

© **Copyright** 2003 Morris Digital Works and The Topeka Capital-Journal.
Please read our **Privacy Policy**. | Learn more about **this site**.
Contact us. | **Advertise** with us.