



SUPPORT the Ground Zero Community.

ASK FOR TRUTH, ASK FOR RESPECT.

EXPOSURE to pollution from the September 11, 2001 attack on the World Trade Center has already caused hundreds of people in New York City to become ill. It is possible that many more will become ill in coming years.

The Bush administration DID NOT put public health and safety first. If they had responded to the disaster with proper concern for the public's health, using a "better safe than sorry" approach, they could have prevented much of the toxic exposure that occurred. Unfortunately, they blocked important health risk information that the Environmental Protection Agency wanted to release and instead misinformed the public about hazards and the crucial need for protective measures to prevent exposure.

We invite people who live or work in lower Manhattan, people who worked in the Ground Zero area during the rescue and recovery effort, and other concerned members of the public **to participate in a daily vigil in anticipation of the Bush administration's upcoming visit to New York.** The goals of this vigil are to call upon the Bush administration to meet the needs of the people affected by Ground Zero pollution, and to educate the rest of the country about this need for action.

We will gather daily, from sunrise to sunset, in lower Manhattan, from August 26 until the final day of the Convention (September 2). Each day we will honor and advocate on behalf of a different "constituency" of the Ground Zero community, to raise public awareness of the wide range of people who were affected and the extent to which they were harmed by World Trade Center pollution.

We will call upon the Bush administration to:

- **Take action now** to prevent more harm from the federal government's failure to ensure proper cleanup of the toxic WTC dust that infiltrated many homes and buildings. A new cleanup must include residential buildings, work spaces, firehouses and emergency vehicles as needed.
- **Fund long-term medical monitoring, treatment and assistance**, as needed, to all the people who suffer or are at risk from illness because of exposure to WTC pollution.
- Issue a retraction of the federal government's assurances that the pollution from the WTC did not pose a health hazard to residents and workers; also, identify and censure the top official involved in suppressing health warnings. **We must send a clear message that failing to warn the public truthfully about hazards is unacceptable.**
- Work with affected communities, labor unions, and environmental health advocates to develop effective national policies and practices that **promote truthfulness** in communication of health risks from terrorist attacks and disasters and **strong action to remove toxic hazards.**

This vigil is an important commitment. We hope you can join us, even if only for an hour or two. If you would like to get involved, please do register in advance:

Call Sierra Club 212-791-3600 ext. 30 or email tresa.horney@sierraclub.org

This event is sponsored by Sierra Club, 9/11 Environmental Action, New York Committee for Occupational Safety and Health (NYCOSH), and New York Environmental Law & Justice Project