

The Facts About 9/11 First Responders

New York City Mayor Mike Bloomberg has un-invited all 9/11 first responders to this month's official tenth anniversary ceremony. The city announced earlier this week (late August) that due to security and space issues, there would be no room for the first responders. Instead, they'll be invited to a private ceremony on a different date.

"They were the first ones on the scene when the World Trade Center towers fell on September 11, 2001, but ten years later, the first responders are being told that they will not be invited to take part in this year's tenth anniversary ceremony at Ground Zero." –Fox News, WIBX

"I'm absolutely disgusted. (This is) a total disrespect to the responders... it's very easy for them to make the space for us."

--Retired NYPD officer Anthony Flammia told FOX News (WIBX).

WIBX adds... **"Many of the 3,000 firefighters, police officers, and other city employees who've been excluded feel the decision was made to try to hide the medical ailments many of them are now suffering."**

"It'll bring up the fact that we're basically walking dead and that we're not being treated"

--First responder Bonnie Giebfried.

Why is New York City waging a war against the very people who saved the lives of so many, and who helped clean up when no one else could, during the worst attack in its history?

The Facts:

Of the 435 congressional districts in the 50 United States, volunteers and first responders represented 431 of those districts at ground zero on 9/11. And that is something to be proud of: volunteerism in America.

About 90,000 volunteers and first responders worked or helped out at or around ground zero.

40,000 plus of these first responders actually worked on "The Pile" – the name given to the WTC rubble pile.

Of these 40,000 plus first responders, 70% of them are sick with cancer and respiratory illnesses related to "the pile".

1000's of other first responders and volunteers who had more limited contact with the air and dust at ground zero are also suffering from these respiratory illnesses and cancers across the country.

Almost all first responders (around 90%) suffer from some form of acid reflux disease (or GURT).

As of 12/01/09, per the New York Health Department, more than 830 first responders have died from 9/11 related illnesses – at least 300 of those were from cancers – others from respiratory complications, smoke inhalation disease, asbestos poisoning, GURD, suicide, etc...

**"I know where I am sick from.
And I'm going to make sure somebody answers,"**

--Kenny Sprecht, a former FDNY firefighter diagnosed with thyroid cancer in 2007.

“For Bob Turner to turn his back on those New Yorkers, but use images of the burning towers in campaign ads – a circus monkey can out-politic Bob Turner, he’s an embarrassment to the Republican Party,” --*John Feal of the Feal Good Foundation.*

“WASHINGTON (AP) — Amid the chaos of the Sept. 11 attacks in 2001, emergency responders found they could not communicate with each other. That problem persists 10 years later, according to a review of the 9/11 Commission's recommendations: "Despite the lives at stake, the recommendation to improve radio interoperability for first responders has stalled because of a political fight over whether to allocate 10 MHz of radio spectrum ... directly to public safety for a nationwide network, or auction it off to a commercial wireless bidder..." -- *August 2011 report, whose authors include 9/11 Commission chairmen Lee Hamilton and Thomas Kean.*

More than 30,000 police officers, firefighters and emergency medical technicians who toiled in the smoldering wreckage at Ground Zero suffer physical or mental health problems today, health officials say...

**"I have 17 diagnoses, nodules in my lungs, polyps in my colon,
I had black fluid in my lungs that had crushed glass and bricks in it."**

*--Charles Giles, 43, director of a private EMT company on 9/11 who spent 497 hours in lower Manhattan.
He has congestive heart failure, coronary artery disease, asthma and chronic sinusitis, among other maladies.*

Nearly 50,000 people are being monitored for health issues arising from the terror attack on the World Trade Center. They include first responders; people who worked there and residents of the area.

While working at Ground Zero, these patients inhaled jet fuel, soot, glass fibers, asbestos, crushed metals, cement dust, pesticides, dioxins and other contaminants. Individually, these pollutants cause serious damage, but mixed together and absorbed into the human body, the toxic brew is harming patients in ways experts never predicted.

- * They have asthma rates at least twice that of the nation’s general population.
- * More than 70 percent have some form of respiratory problem.
- * Many also have gastro-esophageal reflux, sinusitis, sleep apnea, post-nasal drip and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. (*Sources: Center for Excellence, University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey Robert Wood Johnson Medical School; Center for Excellence, Mount Sinai Medical Center*)

First responders said they toiled without masks or protective gear based on comments by Christie Whitman, the former New Jersey governor who headed the federal Environmental Protection Agency at the time. A week after the World Trade Center towers fell... **Whitman stated that: “The air was safe.”**

"I believe there was permanent damage to the sinuses from what they inhaled... There is long-standing inflammation and what would have been minor and livable illnesses are now more serious conditions."

Many of the patients reported that, prior to Sept. 11, 2001, they were in their 30s and 40s and suffered from only an occasional cold or flu. Now they have asthma rates at least twice the nation's general population. More than 70 percent have respiratory problems. They have gastro- esophageal reflux, upper and lower respiratory problems, sinusitis, sleep apnea and post-nasal drip, researchers said.

In 2002, the government closed the window for first responders to enter a claim for 9/11 related illnesses. This means that first responders with any delayed symptoms like blood cancers, of which it takes years to show any symptoms of, or the brave few who just refused to complain of their illness until it was too late, were denied any government assistance, and could not pay for their own health-care and hospital bills.

Only through activist groups like the “Feal Good Foundation” and “We Are Change” has this issue come to the public eye, and funding for these 1st responders has finally been approved through our sheer activism and political pressure. –*Clint Richardson, WeAreChangeUtah.org*