



Free Speech Radio News

Coalition calls for expanded health care for Ground Zero residents

A new survey on illnesses related to the September 11th World Trade Center attacks finds the health of local resident hasn't improved. For FSRN, Rebecca Myles from New York has more on the story.

The survey by the groups Beyond Ground Zero and 9/11 Environmental Action, includes interviews with 200 workers, students and residents exposed to the toxic air, fumes and dust that lingered for many months after 9/11. More than one third of the respondents have seen no improvement in their health. And many illnesses reported are not recognized as being connected to 9/11 - including headaches, memory loss and cardiac problems.

Jei Fong of the Chinese Staff and Workers' Association says the survey results are only the tip of iceberg. He says the absence of data has been used to justify the lack of comprehensive health care and treatment for thousands of people.

"Right now Congress is debating legislation, they've approved for one year to fund the current treatment program, the WTC environmental health center in Bellevue and Elmhurst Hospital, Queens. Right now many people are still going to their private doctors and are suffering from many other illnesses, new and emerging illnesses. To date there hasn't been an investigation."

Activists are still trying to get a line item on the NYC ballot for the November 3 elections so voters can decide if a commission should investigate. Yesterday, city officials approved demolition orders for the Deutsche Bank building near Ground Zero, raising concerns further toxins will be released. Rebecca Myles, FSRN, New York.