

FROM THE GROUND UP

ISSUE #5

IMMIGRANT 9/11 WORKERS: IT'S TIME TO ORGANIZE!

Even though several years have passed since the 9/11 disaster, the effects are still being felt by many workers who were involved in the rescue, recovery and clean-up efforts at Ground Zero.

Thousands of immigrants worked as clean-up workers, and performed tasks that exposed them to the dust and debris. Now some are having health problems related to those exposures. Unfortunately, many do not know of the services available to them. We need to get the word out to these workers – it's time to organize!

Here are a few steps you can take to address your 9-11-related issues:

GET AN INITIAL MEDICAL EXAMINATION, AND ORGANIZE OTHERS WHO WORKED AT GROUND ZERO OR THE SURROUNDING AREA TO GET THE EXAM ALSO.

Whether or not you have symptoms that you believe are related to your 9/11 work, schedule an appointment at the World Trade Center Medical Monitoring Program now by calling (888) 702-0630. Exposure to many of the toxic substances found at Ground Zero could lead to long-term problems, so it's important to stay vigilant about your health now.

FILE FOR WORKERS' COMPENSATION IF YOU ARE INJURED OR ILL FROM YOUR 9/11 WORK, AND ASK YOUR LAWYER/CASE WORKER TO HELP YOU GET THE BENEFITS TO WHICH YOU ARE ENTITLED.

Workers' Compensation is a state-mandated insurance system, paid for by employers, that provides certain benefits to workers who are injured or made ill on their job. If you file a claim and win your case, you could be eligible for medical treatment for your injury/illness, and depending on your situation, could also receive some income replacement.

STAY INFORMED ABOUT 9/11-RELATED DEVELOPMENTS FOR IMMIGRANT CLEAN-UP WORKERS, and ORGANIZE!

Continue to talk with others who were involved in the clean-up, and be in touch with your union and/or community-based organization about any new information for 9/11 workers. Organize a meeting at your community center, union, or church to educate other members of the 9/11 community about programs that are available to them and their families. NYCOSH

staff is available to come to your meeting to educate your group about the benefits for which they may be eligible. And note: you do not need to prove legal status to be eligible for workers' compensation, or for many of the benefits provided by various organizations.

JOIN NYCOSH'S 9/11 IMMIGRANT WORKER COUNCIL, AND MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD

Contact NYCOSH to become a member of the Immigrant Worker Council by calling 212-227-6440, ext. 18. By building a coalition of 9/11 immigrant workers, we can be more effective in ensuring that the immigrant community is given the dignity and respect it deserves for its participation in the clean up lower Manhattan.

The New York Committee for Occupational Safety and Health (NYCOSH)
116 John Street, Suite 604, New York, NY. 10038
(212) 227-6440, ext. 18
LI Office: c/o NYSUT, 150 Motor Parkway, Suite 306, Hauppauge, NY 11788
(631) 435-1857



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