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FDNY World Trade Center Health Program Fact Sheet

The health impact on FDNY WTC-exposed responders (Firefighters & EMS) continues. Because many continue to suffer from a combination of WTC-related physical and mental health illnesses, the diagnosis and treatment is quite complicated. It requires healthcare providers to have extensive experience and to spend far more time than usual with each patient. Medical monitoring, early diagnosis and aggressive treatment have been able to reduce the impact that WTC exposure(s) and the resulting illnesses have had on our members' ability to function in normal life activities and thankfully, on mortality rates. But due to the physical nature of their jobs, these illnesses have had tremendous impact on our membership and their families.

Recent numbers clearly indicate the impact this has had and the need for continued medical monitoring and treatment. They include:

15,661 FDNY members (fire and EMS) are enrolled in the FDNY WTC Health Program. Over 90% have had multiple follow up monitoring exams indicating extremely high continued participation, with minimal longitudinal dropout.

Prior to 9/11/01, FDNY responders (Fire & EMS) lost ~31 ml per year of lung function. In the 6-12 months after 9/11/01, those exposed lost on average over 370 ml of lung function, more than 12 times expected. And nearly 4,600 FDNY WTCHP members lost in excess of 370 ml after 9/11. Moreover, our studies have shown that this reduction in lung function was not temporary. It has persisted and for many this has been disabling.

Since 9/11/01, over 2,100 FDNY responders have awarded service-connected disability due to WTC-related illnesses – mostly respiratory or cancer.

Since inception, this program has provided treatment for WTC-related injuries/illnesses (physical and/or mental health) to 13,427 members. And in the last year over 7,500 members have been treated. This indicates not only continued participation in our program but continued need.

The FDNY WTC Health Program has provided our federal funding agency, the National Institute of Occupational Health and Safety (NIOSH) with exposure and medical documentation. This has allowed the federal government to certify our members' injuries/illnesses as WTC-related so that their treatments could occur without delay and without individual member expense. This includes:

~10,000 FDNY WTC Health Program members have been certified by the federal government with at least 1 WTC-related condition. Most have more than 1 condition. This includes:

~1,100 with cancer.

~5,400 with lower respiratory diseases such as asthma, chronic bronchitis, and less commonly emphysema, COPD, sarcoidosis or pulmonary fibrosis

~5,200 with upper respiratory diseases such as chronic rhinosinusitis and/or vocal cord diseases

~3700 with mental health stress related conditions

~5400 with gastroesophageal reflux disorders

The death toll continues to grow:

343 FDNY first responders died on 9/11.

In the years that followed, 203 FDNY WTC Health Program members have died and over half of them have had their deaths attributed to WTC-related illnesses.

44 of the 203 died after suffering from a WTC-related cancer.

FDNY was the first to provide monitoring and treatment. And during monitoring and treatment, we collected the data to inform our membership, their unions and government officials of the impact this exposure has had on their health and wellness.

The WTC Health Program has been a huge benefit to our membership and to the many other responders, workers, survivors and residents that have been exposed.

Thank you for the opportunity to share this information with you and thank you for all you do for firefighters and other responders across this nation.



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