

# **TOXIC LEGACY** Poisonous dust from 9/11 attack has given almost 10,000 New Yorkers cancer

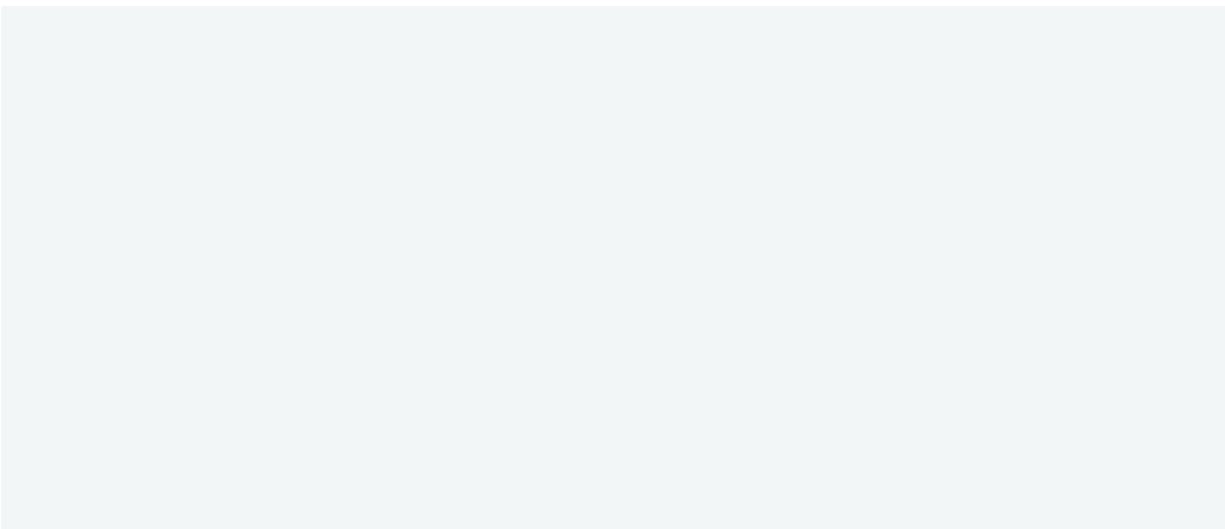
The federal World Trade Center Health Program has counted 9,795 first responders and other New Yorkers with cancer deemed 9/11-related


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By Susan Edelman for New York Post

**NEARLY 10,000 people have suffered cancers linked to the toxic dust and smoke resulting from 9/11.**

With the 17th anniversary of the September 11, 2001 terror attacks a month away, the federal World Trade Center Health Program has counted 9,795 first responders and other New Yorkers with cancer deemed 9/11-related.



 Almost 10,000 have developed cancer from 9/11 related smoke and dust

REUTERS



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In all, more than 1,700 responders and others affected have died, including 420 of those stricken with cancer, officials said.

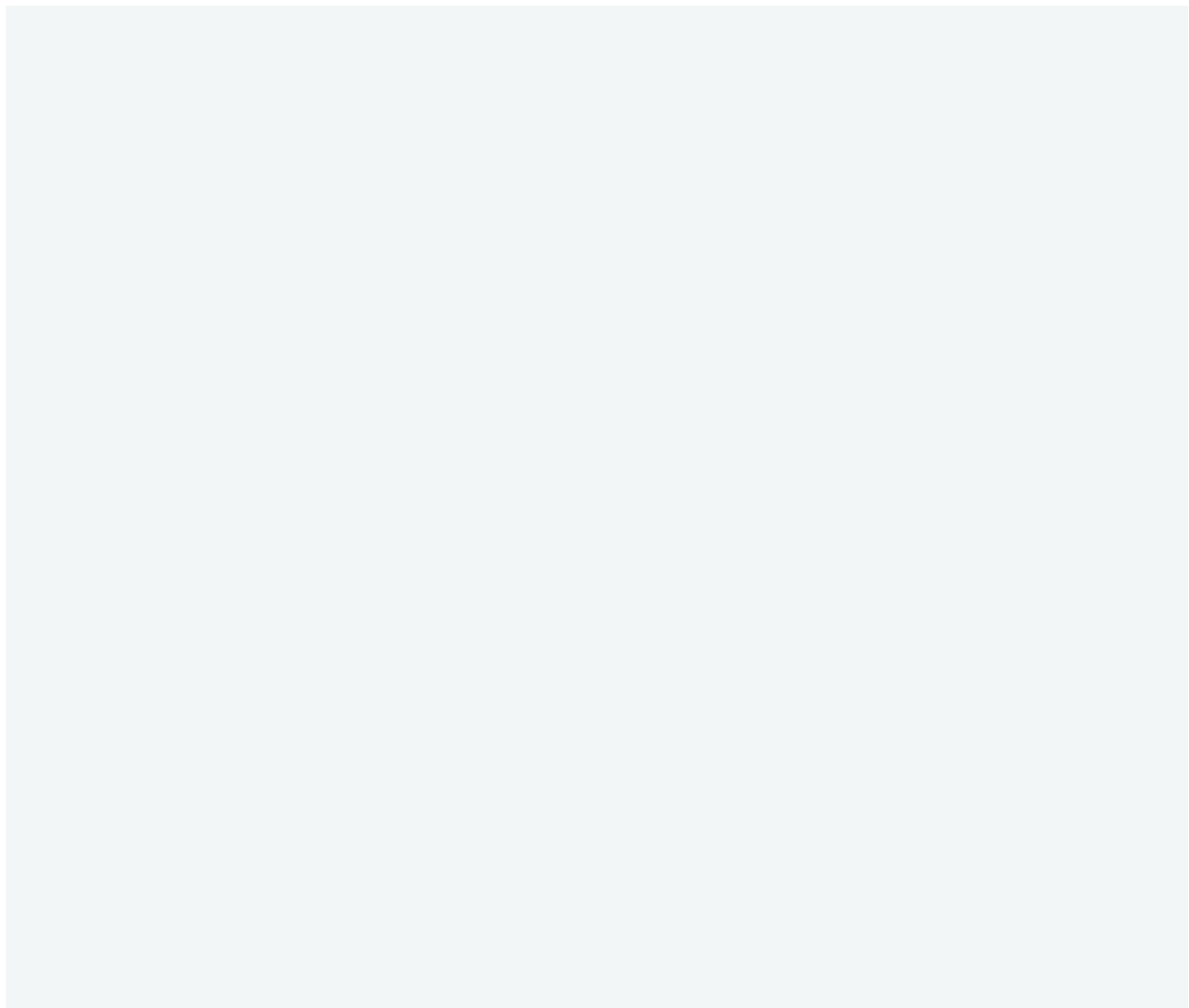
“9/11 is still killing,” said John Feal, an advocate for WTC responders.

“Sadly, this fragile community of heroes and survivors is shrinking by the day.”

The number of cancer patients has rapidly risen since the federal program started tracking the disease in 2013.

“We get these referrals 15 to 20 times a week,” said Dr. Michael Crane, medical director of the WTC Health Program at Mount Sinai Hospital.

Cancers have various latency periods, typically emerging years after exposure to harmful substances.



 Many New York workers and civilians have been affected




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Heroic first responders die and thousands battle crippling illness after being poisoned by toxic fumes from 9/11 terror attacks

 First responders who worked to clear debris have also been stricken

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First responders who worked to clear debris have also been stricken

In addition, the average age of Ground Zero workers and others affected has risen from 38 to 55. Some are in their 70s.

Studies have confirmed that 9/11 rescue and recovery workers have significantly higher rates of thyroid cancer and skin melanoma, which is potentially fatal, than found in the general population, and face a higher risk of bladder cancer.

Non-responders have had significantly higher rates of breast cancer and non-Hodgkin's lymphoma.

Other cancers raising red flags include leukemia, Crane said.

When the first plane struck, NYPD Sgt Tom Wilson raced from the 90th Precinct in Williamsburg to man the Brooklyn Bridge as people fled Manhattan on foot.

In the coming months, Wilson worked 344 hours at Ground Zero, sometimes sleeping at the site, and at the Fresh Kills landfill, where workers sifted debris for remains.

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Conspiracists believe this video proves that 9/11 was a controlled explosion

Wilson soon developed gastrointestinal and sinus problems, but was struck with an aggressive tongue cancer in 2008.

Memorial Sloan-Kettering doctors cut off a third of Wilson's tongue, replacing it with a skin graft from his wrist.

Now in frequent pain, he told The [New York Post](#), he will eventually need a reconstructed jaw, using a bone from his leg or shoulder.

But the father of five, who left the NYPD for the Suffolk County Police closer to home, is grateful to be alive — and has not lost his passion for public service.

Wilson said: "God forbid there's another 9/11, I want to be able to respond to that."

Debbie Morales, then a 23-year-old receptionist for the National Coffee Association, stepped out of the subway to mayhem as the Twin Towers burned. "There are things I saw I can never undo," she said, sobbing.





### **MOVING ON**

Widower blasted  
by wife's family  
for finding love  
insists she'dOver  
the next few  
weeks, Morales  
spent hours at a

Eight years later, Morales suffered two seizures at work and was diagnosed with advanced brain cancer.

"I'm fearful about everything since 9/11. I was never like that before," she cried. "I feel that thing just took everything away."

**A version of this story originally appeared on the [New York Post](#).**