

Greetings to Our PFANJ and Firefighter Leaders;

Attached are the up to date information for you and your members to help them properly understand the benefits that might be available to them, if they served in our Nation's time of need at the WTC site. These forms were updated to include the fully extended and permanent 9/11 Victim Compensation Fund. Please share these with both your active and **retired** members.

I cannot emphasize enough the importance of getting every responder who served back then into the WTC Health Programs.

The WTC responders need to have the following: *Present on 9/11; 4 hours 9/12 – 9/14; or 24 hours between 9/15 and 9/30; or 80 hours between October and May of 2002.*

Important to realize a member does not need to be sick or ill to be in the program. You would have to download an application from <https://www.cdc.gov/wtc/apply.html>. After receiving acceptance into the WTC Health Program, you can call the Health Program at **888-982-4748** to make appointments, or help you with any questions you may have. A member would have to provide **two affidavits (attached)** or other proof of their involvement. *Once registered, any WTC Certified condition would receive prescription benefits, medical treatment and testing without any deductibles or copays.*

Not everyone is making the connection between their **Cancer** and their exposure back at the WTC site back around and after 9/11. The question is more complex because so much time has passed. Too often our members do not realize that their exposure to the toxic air (that the Government said was safe) around 9/11 might have contributed to their **Cancer**. It is important to realize that it is a **presumption** due to the Zadroga Bill and meeting the required exposure guidelines. Note: Anyone

with **Cancer** from their exposure should contact us immediately so that we can help them in their time of need. Since **Skin Cancer** is the most prevalent **Cancer** that the WTC Health Program is seeing, members should get themselves checked for this.

Please look over and share the attachments and do not hesitate to call me with any questions or concerns. It would be appreciated.

NOTE: Important Deadlines –

- There is *no deadline* for the WTC Health Program and it will run until 2090.
- The current 9/11 Victim Compensation Fund also runs until October 1st, 2090 NOW.
- After the WTC Health Program Certifies a condition or illness, members would have **two years** to apply to the 9/11 Victim Compensation Fund to be eligible.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION: *If a member had Cancer in the past, and had never connected it to their 9/11 WTC Exposure, there is still time to protect themselves , their families and their future. The 2 year deadline ONLY starts once the WTC Health Program condition gets Certified by the Program. This includes our PFANJ members who have recently passed from their possible exposure. Call me with any questions or concerns. Thank you for looking after our members who stepped up in our Nation's time of need.*

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