



International Union of Operating Engineers

AFFILIATED WITH THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR AND CONGRESS OF INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATIONS

January 10, 2019

Dear Business Manager:

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I write to share with you important information concerning members' health. I ask that you spread the word to your local membership, especially any IUOE member active or retired, who participated in response and recovery efforts following the attacks on September 11, 2001. Congress has passed legislation creating rights available to all responders who were in downtown Manhattan on 9/11 or during the 8 months following.

Many responders from outside NYC are not aware that the Government has created a \$7.3 billion Victim Compensation Fund (VCF) for active and retired responders who have been diagnosed with World Trade Center-related physical illnesses. And, as part of the Zadroga Act, the World Trade Center Health Program provides free health care to those with certified WTC illnesses. Here are some highlights about the Zadroga Health and Victim Compensation Act:

- NIOSH has now linked 68 cancers to the WTC toxic dust, the most common being prostate cancer, skin cancers (basal, squamous, melanoma), breast cancer, thyroid cancer and lung cancer. A host of respiratory illnesses have also been linked, including asthma, GERD, COPD, sinusitis and sleep apnea.
- Over 10,000 people in the 9/11 community have been diagnosed with 9/11-linked cancers and,
- Over 2,000 responders have died from their cancers and/or their pulmonary illnesses
- The Zadroga Act was named in honor of our firm's client, NYPD Detective James Zadroga. He died at age 34 from pulmonary fibrosis. An autopsy discovered ground glass, benzene, and many other carcinogens in his lung tissue.
- As a result of Detective Zadroga's autopsy findings, there is a presumption linking serious pulmonary illnesses and the 68 cancers to the WTC toxins.
- The VCF has already awarded over \$4 Billion to more than 22,000 people. The Health Program has been extended 70 years but unfortunately, the VCF will close on Dec. 18, 2020.

It's so important to shine a light on this national crisis and let all of your members who participated in the WTC rescue and recovery efforts know



about their legal rights; especially your retirees who likely have no idea about these important benefits. There are strict deadlines. Please see the attached flyer for more information.

Thank you for helping us spread the word about these programs.

Fraternally,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "James T. Callahan". The signature is stylized with a large initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline that extends under the name.

James T. Callahan
General President

JTC:jl/em