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New Mexico Environment Department to send teams to the New York's Ground Zero

(Santa Fe, NM) – The New Mexico Environment Department's Occupational Health and Safety Bureau (OHSB) will send health and safety workers to New York to assist in the recovery efforts at the World Trade Center site.

New Mexico's OHSB will be sending four teams, each including one industrial hygienist and one safety officer, to assist with air sampling and safety monitoring at the 16-acre site. The first team consisting of Tandi Ritter and Carol Walker is scheduled to leave December 9, and return December 17.

After the September 11 attack on the World Trade Center, the Federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has provided assistance, 24 hours a day, seven days a week to protect workers involved in recovery, demolition and site clearing operations. Approximately 600 federal and state officers from throughout the United States are providing site risk assessments, air monitoring, respirator distribution and fit-checking, safety monitoring, and health support.

According to Environment Secretary Peter Maggiore, "We are honored to assist New York and our fellow Americans in the recovery efforts. Our occupational health and safety staff will work to minimize the risks to those who are engaged in the recovery efforts. This is a time for Americans to rally for each other; and we are proud to represent New Mexico in serving the needs of our countrymen."

The other three New Mexico OHSB teams will work the World Trade Center site in January and February and include Don Rideout, Nicole Flessner, Brian Holton, Bob Genoway, Melissa Barker and Kevin Koch.

New Mexico OHSB representatives will work with other federal and state health and safety officers in ensuring that all participants involved in the operation remain vigilant in maintaining the health and safety at the WTC site.

For more information, contact Sam Rogers, NMED-OHSB Chief, at (505) 827-4230.

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