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U.S. News

Vance Delsignore: OSHA officer at WTC

Wednesday, September 11, 2002

By Jim McKay, Post-Gazette Staff Writer

Not a day goes by that Vance Delsignore does not recall both the massive devastation and the resilience of the human spirit that he witnessed at the World Trade Center last September.

Delsignore, of Washington, Pa., a compliance officer with the Pittsburgh office of the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration, was one of a rotating group of officials who helped identify safety hazards that confronted construction crews as they untangled tons of steel and concrete at the site.

He remembers a fire truck 10 feet below the ground that was still burning two weeks after the towers collapsed, its metal so hot it looked like a vat of molten steel.

The smoky smell remains in his nostrils, and he can't forget seeing rescue crews digging by hand for their dead friends and co-workers, often coming up with little or nothing for their toil.

"It's probably going to stay with me forever -- both the devastation and the cooperation."

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