

# Transit workers: City buses made us sick



Emidio DeStefano, 71, foreground, says diesel fumes from city buses caused him to develop throat cancer.

AMY ZIMMER  
amy.zimmer@metro.us



**Retired transit workers, who spent a combined 252,000 hours in unventilated bus depots around the city, filed a lawsuit yesterday against manufacturers of diesel engines and buses, claiming that decades of exposure to fumes resulted in serious heart and lung problems.**

Of these 13 bus drivers, shifters or mechanics who worked in various New York City Transit depots, nine became ill with can-

## Just a taste of things to come

With perhaps millions of workers in transportation, construction, railroad and package delivery facing similar diesel exposure facing heart and lung malignancies, lawyer John Durst anticipates many lawsuits will follow

cer. four had pulmonary arrest and heart conditions. Some had a combo of disorders. Two named in the suit, which was filed in New York, Kings and Bronx counties, are already dead. Family members filed on their behalf.

"These depots, by and large, were converted trolley car barns. They have no exhaust fans, almost no

windows," lawyer John Dearie explained. Often, up to 100 buses would idle all night because the engines, if turned off, wouldn't always turn on in the morning, he alleged.

The workers are seeking unspecified damages from General Motors, Detroit Diesel and other companies. "[They] gave no warning," Dearie said. "They

knew the belching of these fumes was a dangerous byproduct."

The lawsuit also claims it was economically and technologically feasible to design buses that eliminate or reduce the deleterious effects of the diesel.

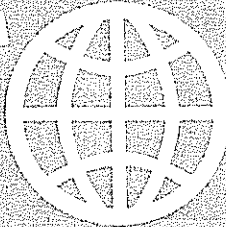
Plaintiff Fred Santoro, 74, who after retiring in 2000 developed what he thought was a "simple sore throat." When his doctor diagnosed him with larynx cancer he was in disbelief because he never smoked.

"We knew we were breathing it in, but we never thought there was anything wrong," Santoro said.

Visit our web site for more details: [diesellawyer.com](http://diesellawyer.com)

For updates and more information on lawsuit, contact:  
Linda McNab on our toll free number: 1-800-2 DEARIE  
(1-800-233-2743) Ext. 32.

The world's largest global newspaper

metro 

NEW YORK • TUESDAY, AUGUST 19, 2008