Clark Seif Clark Environmental Newsletter

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Every day, Clark Seif Clark professionals are deployed across the nation helping both large and small customers resolve health & safety, industrial hygiene, environmental and indoor air quality issues.

At a moment's notice, Clark Seif Clark can send their experts anywhere they are needed. No matter if it's in response to a hurricane, wildfire, flood, tornado, or other natural disaster, Clark Seif Clark is ready to help and can respond in no time at all.

PCB Hazards Still Exist in Some Older Buildings and Materials

Polychlorinated biphenyls, also known as PCBs, are man-made toxic chemicals that are no longer produced in the United States. Their use was discontinued in 1979 because the chemicals persist in the environment and can bioaccumulate in humans and animals. Their chemical structure allows them to remain for long periods of time cycling between air, water and soil. Exposure to PCBs has been demonstrated to cause a variety of adverse health effects on the immune, reproductive, nervous and endocrine systems.

Although PCBs are no longer commercially produced in the United States, they may still be present in products and building materials produced before the ban went into effect. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) website, "Due to their non-flammability, chemical stability, high boiling point, and electrical insulating properties, PCBs were used in hundreds of industrial and commercial applications including electrical, heat transfer, and hydraulic equipment; as plasticizers in paints, plastics, and rubber products; in pigments, dyes, and carbonless copy paper; and many other industrial applications."

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In 2009, the EPA released new guidance regarding PCBs in caulk from buildings constructed or renovated between 1950 and 1978. The EPA recommends testing for PCBs in peeling, brittle, cracking or deteriorating caulk in buildings, especially in school environments.

"Even decades after PCBs are no longer being manufactured, they still persist and can potentially pose a health concern for building occupants," said Franco Seif, President of Clark Seif Clark. "At CSC, our indoor environmental quality professionals are regularly called upon to test joint compounds, window putty and other materials for these chemicals. Testing can help to determine if they are present and may pose an exposure risk for building occupants."

To learn more about Clark Seif Clark and indoor environmental quality, industrial hygiene or health and safety issues, please visit www.csceng.com, email csc@csceng.com or call (800) 807-1118.

Indoor Air Quality Needs to be a Top Priority Following any Flood

While some parts of the country have had a relatively dry spring, other regions have experienced heavy rains that have resulted in flooding events and water damage to homes and buildings. During flood cleanup, the future indoor air quality (IAQ) of a building may appear to be the least of one's problems. However, failure to remove contaminated materials and to reduce moisture and humidity in a timely manner can present serious long-term health concerns for building occupants.

Standing water and wet materials are a breeding ground for microorganisms, such as viruses, bacteria and mold. Many of these contaminants can become airborne and if inhaled could potentially cause disease and trigger allergic reactions long after the flood. If floodwater contains sewage or decaying animal carcasses, infectious disease is a significant concern. Even when flooding is due to just rainwater, the growth of microorganisms can cause allergic reactions, trigger asthma attacks in susceptible individuals and cause other conditions in some people.

Moisture in a building is an IAQ concern for a number of reasons, including:

* Any microorganisms or chemicals brought into a building with flood waters may present an immediate health concern.

Green Building

Litigation Support

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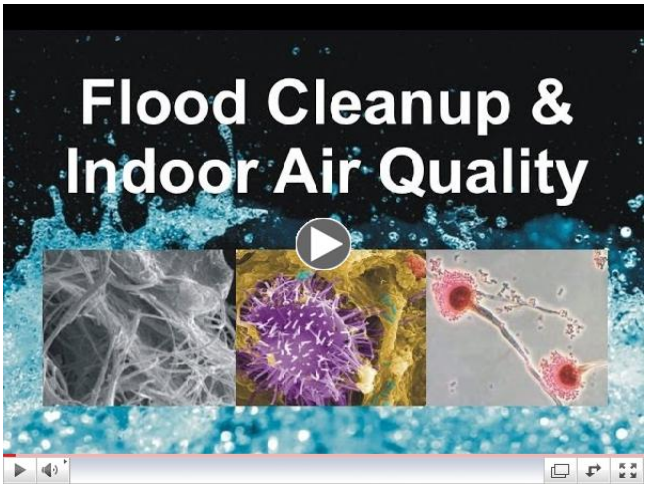
Is It Safe?

* High humidity and moist materials provide ideal environments for the growth of microorganisms that were already present in the home prior to the flood.

* Long-term increases in humidity in a building can foster the growth of dust mites which are a major cause of allergic reactions and act as an asthma trigger for some people.

Depending on the type of water that has entered a building and how long it is present, it can play a significant role in how the water damage could impact a person's health and even how the building needs to be remediated. The water damage and indoor air quality professionals at Clark Seif Clark provide consulting and testing services to identify areas of concern and develop solutions to safely resolve any problems.

CSC recently sponsored an educational video about flood cleanup and indoor air quality concerns that can be seen below:



Flood Cleanup & Indoor Air Quality

To learn more about this or other environmental, health and safety issues, please visit www.csceng.com, email csc@csceng.com or call (800) 807-1118.

About Clark Seif Clark: CSC was established in 1989 to help clients in both the public and private sectors address environmental issues. CSC is a leading provider of these services with multiple offices along the western seaboard and southwest. The company believes in science-based protocols and has a strong background in engineering making them the preferred environmental consultants to healthcare facilities, architects, schools, builders, contractors, developers and real estate professionals.