



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.

## Demolition Projects and Air Quality Concerns for Workers and Nearby Residents

Last month, *The Desert Sun* published a report about the demolition of a 229 room hotel and spa in downtown Palm Springs. The article stated that the building, constructed in the 1960s, was found to contain asbestos during the demolition project. Due to this find, containment of the worksite and air monitoring was put into place to prevent exposure to any asbestos fibers released into the air.

Each year, countless homes and buildings that have outgrown their useful lives are slated for demolition. These demolition projects result in millions of tons waste and rubble. While much of this waste is inert or nonhazardous, other debris may contain hazardous materials that may be regulated by the state and/or federal government. This waste and the demolition process itself, can in some circumstances, create exposure concerns for the workers involved in the projects and even nearby residents.

There is typically a large amount of debris and particulate matter that can become airborne during demolition projects and spread to surrounding properties. Depending on the type and age of the building, it could contain any number of potentially hazardous materials. These may include asbestos, lead, mold, polychlorinated biphenyl (PCBs), mercury and other substances.

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"High levels of particulate matter, which may sometimes include hazardous materials, can spread across the worksite and into surrounding area," said Franco Seif, President of Clark Seif Clark. "This could create exposure concerns for anyone in the area. Even demolition equipment powered by diesel engines at large project worksites can create air quality issues for nearby building occupants due to diesel exhaust. At CSC, our air quality professionals can help prevent exposure concerns during these types of projects by utilizing air testing and monitoring equipment. These services help to ensure that both workers and people in nearby communities are not exposed to hazards in the air they breathe."

CSC has sponsored an educational video about demolition projects and potential air quality concerns that can be seen here:



To learn more about air quality testing and monitoring services or other environmental, health and safety issues, please visit [www.csceng.com](http://www.csceng.com), email [csc@csceng.com](mailto:csc@csceng.com) or call (800) 807-1118.

## Could Isocyanates from the Application of Spray Polyurethane Foam Cause Indoor Environmental Concerns?

Across California and the Southwest, spray polyurethane foam (SPF) has become a popular alternative to other forms of insulation in homes and buildings due to its excellent insulating properties. In many applications, SPF also has the ability to protect against moisture, fill cracks and crevices, and works well to reduce airborne sounds in urban areas.

There are several types of spray polyurethane foam. The material is applied as a chemical reaction between two components takes place

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**Is It Safe?**

as the materials exit an applicator nozzle. A foam is formed that is sprayed onto a surface that then begins to cure.

With SPF's increasing popularity, there have also been concerns over exposure to the chemicals used in the materials. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) states, "SPF is an effective insulation and air sealant material; however, exposures to its key ingredient, isocyanates such as "MDI," and other SPF chemicals that may be found in vapors, aerosols, dust or on surfaces during and for a period of time after installation may cause adverse health effects such as asthma. Therefore, steps to control exposures and safety tips should be followed."

Isocyanates are chemical substances that are known to be powerful irritants. To prevent exposure to isocyanates during and after installation, SPF applicators should use best practices. This may include vacating building occupants during the application process, providing appropriate ventilation, isolating the work site to prevent chemicals from spreading to other areas, cleaning the worksite when finished to prevent the spread of particles and dusts, and ensuring that the material has properly cured before others are allowed to re-enter the area. For those who are sensitized to isocyanates, even low concentrations of isocyanates can trigger an asthma attack or other lung effects.

The indoor environmental quality professionals at CSC provide air testing and monitoring services for isocyanates and other airborne pollutants. These services can be beneficial during construction and for preoccupancy testing. Testing can also be useful even months later if people who have been sensitized to isocyanates live or work in the building. CSC also recently sponsored an educational video about SPF and chemical exposure concerns that can be seen here:



To learn more about this or other indoor air quality, environmental, health and safety testing services, please visit [www.csceng.com](http://www.csceng.com) , email [csc@csceng.com](mailto: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.