



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.

## *Aspergillus* Exposure Concerns in Moldy Residential, Commercial and Healthcare Environments

Aspergillosis is a disease caused by some species of *Aspergillus*, a common type of mold. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), of the approximately 180 known species of *Aspergillus*, fewer than 40 are known to cause infections in humans.

The CDC states that most people breathe in *Aspergillus* spores every day without getting sick, but people with a weakened immune system or lung disease are at a higher risk of developing health problems due to exposure. The different types of aspergillosis include:

- Allergic bronchopulmonary aspergillosis (ABPA)
- Allergic *Aspergillus* sinusitis
- Aspergilloma
- Chronic pulmonary aspergillosis
- Invasive aspergillosis
- Cutaneous aspergillosis

Aspergillosis is not a reportable infection in the United States so the exact number of cases that occur each year is difficult to determine. Milder, allergic forms of aspergillosis are more common than the invasive forms of the infection according to the CDC.

"Airborne and settled *Aspergillus* is common across the globe at

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Clark Seif Clark  
(CSC)

[csc@csceng.com](mailto:csc@csceng.com)  
800.807.1118

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background concentrations in both indoor and outdoor environments. It is also frequently found at elevated concentrations in buildings that have suffered water damages resulting in the amplification or growth of mold," said Derrick A. Denis, Vice President of IEQ at Clark Seif Clark (CSC). "While exposure to elevated levels of *Aspergillus* is a concern in any home or building, this is especially true in healthcare environments that likely have patients with compromised immune systems. Even for people with a healthy immune system, exposure to elevated concentrations of *Aspergillus* or other types of mold can result in negative health impacts. Health effects of mold overexposure can include mild allergic responses like a runny nose or more severe impacts, including triggering an asthma attack in asthmatics."

To identify microbial contaminants in buildings, the indoor environmental quality experts at CSC offer comprehensive testing and building investigation services. CSC also recently sponsored an educational video about aspergillosis that can be seen here:



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

## Protecting Workers in Industries that Utilize 1-Bromopropane and Other Solvents

In February, the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released for public comment and peer review a draft risk assessment for 1-bromopropane (1-BP), also known as n-propyl bromide. The draft assessment was conducted as part of EPA's Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) Chemical Work Plan assessment effort.

According to the document, 1-BP showed acute risks to women of childbearing age from adverse developmental effects. Other non-cancer and cancer health risks were identified for workers with repeated and chronic exposures, including neurotoxicity; kidney,

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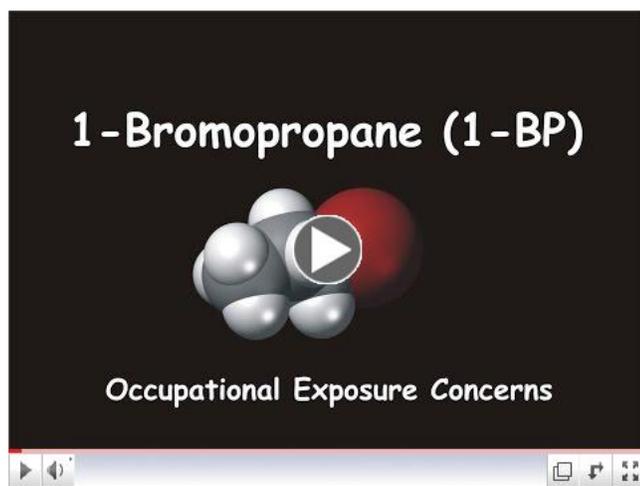
liver and reproductive toxicity; and lung cancer.

This past August, California's Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) added 1-bromopropane to the list of chemicals known to the state to cause cancer for purposes of Proposition 65. The listing of 1-bromopropane (1-BP) was based on formal identification by the National Toxicology Program (NTP) that the chemical causes cancer.

The Occupational Health and Safety Administration (OSHA) reports that the use of 1-BP has increased over the past 20 years. The solvent is often found in products used in vapor and immersion degreasing operations for cleaning metals, plastics and electronic and optical components; adhesive spray applications; dry cleaning; and solvent sprays used in operations like asphalt production, aircraft maintenance and synthetic fiber manufacturing.

Employers in industries utilizing 1-BP or other solvents need to minimize employee risks. This can be done by eliminating the need for solvents altogether or substituting 1-BP with a comparable benign product. If 1-BP cannot be eliminated or supplanted then consider administrative controls, such as relocating employees, and/or consider engineering controls, such as area isolation or ventilation. Should worker exposure monitoring data or predictive calculations indicate employee exposure risk, then hazard-appropriate personal protective equipment should be selected and put into practice.

CSC offers consulting and testing for 1-BP and other occupational chemical exposure risks to protect workers and to keep companies in compliance with health and safety regulations. CSC also recently sponsored an educational video about 1-bromopropane that can be seen here:



To learn more about this or other occupational, environmental, indoor air quality, 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.