



Clark Seif Clark is pleased to bring environmental, health & safety and information about building sciences to thousands of professionals each month. We hope you enjoy the newsletter.

## Environmental Experts Warn of Asbestos and Microbial Hazards following Hurricane Sandy

Recently, Hurricane Sandy left a path of destruction across many parts of the East Coast. In addition to numerous deaths caused by the historic storm, countless homes and businesses were damaged or destroyed.

Some estimates have put the cost of the property damage caused by Hurricane Sandy at close to \$20 billion. Many of the damaged properties are in the process of being cleaned out and rebuilding efforts for some have begun. These water and wind damaged structures can many times pose health and safety concerns for workers and the building occupants.

Franco Seif, President of Clark Seif Clark, one of the nation's premier providers of environmental, industrial hygiene, and health and safety services, reminded residents of the following: "There are environmental hazards people need to be aware of as they rebuild their homes, schools and businesses. Many of these water damaged structures had more than just water enter them. Flood waters can contain a host of microbial and chemical contaminants. Even clean rain water, known as Category 1 water damage, that enters a building can begin to allow mold growth in as short as 24 to 48 hours. Flood waters could be either Gray Water or Black Water, known as Category 2 and 3, depending on what they have been in contact with. A host of viruses, parasites, bacteria, fungi, pesticides, fuels, and other contaminants could impact properties. Only proper cleanup and restoration, followed up by a thorough post restoration verification assessment can insure an impacted property is habitable."

Another health and safety concern for residents relates to asbestos and lead-based paints. Many properties in the affected areas were built before the use of lead-based paints and building materials that contained asbestos were banned. Cleanup activities

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and demolition can easily aerosolize these materials creating a health hazard to anyone nearby. Also, there are federal, state and city laws and regulations that one must abide by when handling asbestos and lead materials.

Clark Seif Clark has sponsored an online video about potential hazards people may face when drying out a water damaged building. It can be seen at:



### Dry Out Hazards Following a Flood or Water Incursion

Clark Seif Clark currently has environmental teams on the ground helping Hurricane Sandy victims. To learn more about health and safety issues during the rebuilding process or about Clark Seif Clark, please visit [www.csceng.com](http://www.csceng.com), email [csc@csceng.com](mailto:csc@csceng.com) or call (800) 807-1118.

## Airborne Fungal Contaminants can be an Indoor Health Hazard

Most people have been unfortunate to at some point witness water damage in their home, school, or place of business. Water damage, whether from a flood, leaking roof, or broken pipe, can lead to mold growth in as short as 24 to 48 hours.

When mold begins to grow indoors it can lead to indoor allergies that last year round, trigger asthma attacks in susceptible individuals, and even result in fungal infections in some people with a weakened immune system. There are serious infections that people can acquire by breathing certain airborne fungal spores.

One common indoor mold that can result in all three outcomes is known as *Aspergillus*. The fungus can cause an infection known as aspergillosis. There are several different kinds of aspergillosis. One kind is allergic bronchopulmonary aspergillosis (ABPA). ABPA

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**Is It Safe?**

causes allergic respiratory symptoms, but does not actually invade and destroy tissue in the body. Invasive aspergillosis, another type of the infection, is a disease that usually affects people with weakened immune systems. During invasive aspergillosis the fungus actually invades and damages tissues in the body.

Aspergillosis can be a devastating disease and people should not be in buildings with high levels of *Aspergillus* growing in the indoor environment. Often times, people may not even know they have mold growth because the mold is growing behind walls or in areas that are out of sight. Clark Seif Clark's expert staff is available to help identify IAQ problems caused by airborne pathogens, mold, and other types of indoor air quality contaminants.

Clark Seif Clark recently sponsored an online video about airborne fungal pathogens that can be seen at:



### Airborne Fungal Pathogens

To learn more about airborne pathogens, mold, or 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.

**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.