Clark Seif Clark Environmental Newsletter

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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.

Odorless Indoor Gases Can Create Safety Issues

In September of last year, an 80 year old woman died at a Georgia McDonald's restaurant after being found unconscious in the ladies restroom. The bleed line to a tank used to carbonate beverages, located in the adjacent wall cavity, was not properly connected. This caused carbon dioxide or CO2 gas, which is ever-present in our environment at low concentrations, to build up in the enclosed space leading to the eventual death of the woman. This tragic case in Georgia brings to light the various common gases that can be dangerous if allowed to reach high concentrations.

"There is a variety of potentially hazardous gases that are common to homes, business and manufacturing facilities. Many can accumulate and adversely impact occupants. Of particular concern are the various odorless and colorless gasses, that can go unnoticed until it is too late such as carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide, oxygen, Halon, radon, etc.," reported Derrick Denis, V.P. Indoor Environmental Quality at Clark Seif Clark (CSC). "At CSC we regularly conduct proactive assessments and reactive emergency responses to identify imbalanced concentration of gasses of consequence. A trained and experienced visual inspection coupled with real-time air testing and/or point-in-time air sampling can quickly identify hazards, or the lack thereof. Armed with this information clients and CSC can adjust the environment to ensure the safety of all occupants," Mr. Denis continued.

Some laws are in place to address one odorless gas, carbon monoxide. Many states have requirements for carbon monoxide sensors to be installed in new properties, but few states have addressed older residential properties built before the

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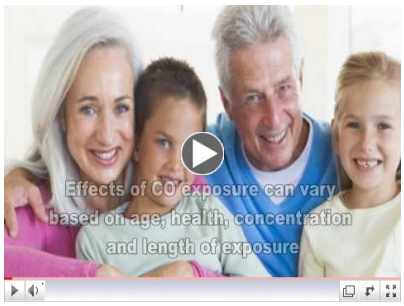
requirement. In California, a new law went into effect on July 1st, 2011 requiring carbon monoxide sensors be installed in all single family homes with an attached garage, fireplace or fuel burning heater. Hotels, apartments and dormitories have until 2013 to comply with the new regulations. The law is meant to decrease the 30 to 40 deaths due to carbon monoxide poisoning occurring in California each year. In addition, The State Air Resources Board of the California Environmental Protection Agency estimates 175 to 700 California emergency room and hospital visits have occurred due to carbon monoxide inhalation over the past three years.

Clark Seif Clark has sponsored an educational video about carbon monoxide dangers in the home. It can be viewed at:



Carbon Monoxide Dangers in the Home

To learn more about how CSC can help with IAQ or environmental issues please visit www.csceng.com, email csc@csceng.com or call (800) 807-1118.

Mold Closes California Medical Center

In October of last year, the Calavera Enterprise reported that the Valley Springs Medical Center was being temporarily closed due to an unexpected discovery of mold. The mold was not readily visible and was only discovered during routine repairs to the building. The medical center, located in Valley Springs, California, made the decision when Aspergillus fungi were identified as part of the microbial growth.

Aspergillus is a genus consisting of several hundred mold species found in various climates worldwide. It is commonly found in the environment and can also sometimes be found in household dust, building materials and even in some foods. It is frequently found in buildings that have suffered water damage or elevated humidity levels.

The disease caused by fungal infections due to Aspergillus is known as aspergillosis. According to the Centers for Disease

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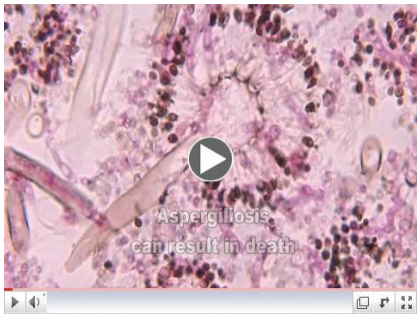
Is It Safe?

Control and Prevention (CDC), "There are many different kinds of aspergillosis. One kind is allergic bronchopulmonary aspergillosis (also called ABPA), a condition where the fungus causes allergic respiratory symptoms, such as wheezing and coughing, but does not actually invade and destroy tissue. Another kind of aspergillosis is invasive aspergillosis, a disease that usually affects people with immune system problems. In this condition, the fungus invades and damages tissues in the body. Invasive aspergillosis most commonly affects the lungs, but can also cause infection in many other organs and can spread throughout the body."

"Because people frequenting medical facilities often have compromised immune systems, it is critically important to reduce the potential for overexposure to Aspergillus and other common environmental molds," reported Derrick A. Denis, V.P. Indoor Environmental Quality at CSC, a leading indoor air quality (IAQ) and mold consulting firm.

To help educate people about Aspergillus and its potential health risks, CSC has sponsored an educational video that can be viewed here:



Aspergillus and Aspergillosis

To learn more about Aspergillus or other molds found in indoor environments 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.