



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.

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Mystery Respiratory Illness Reported after Event at the Playboy Mansion

According to a recent report in the *Los Angeles Times*, the bacteria that cause Legionnaires' Disease have been discovered in a water source at the Playboy Mansion. The reported number of individuals sickened, after attending a conference in Santa Monica that included an event at the famous Playboy Mansion, has also grown. The latest reports raise the number of sick people from 170 to approximately 200.



Legionella Bacteria

The affected people were attending an internet conference that included a party at the mansion in early February. Health officials are looking into the cause of the mystery respiratory illness that has impacted so many.

Some reports have suggested Pontiac Fever, a disease caused by airborne bacteria could be the cause, and some have questioned if the source was from a fog machine used at the party. No staff members working the event have been sickened according to a Playboy representative so the source remains a mystery.

Pontiac Fever and Legionnaires' disease are caused by *Legionella pneumophila* bacteria. The transmission of *Legionella* occurs via aerosols, when mists containing viable bacteria are inhaled. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports, "Each year, between 8,000 and 18,000 people are hospitalized with Legionnaires' disease in the U.S. However, many infections are not diagnosed or reported, so this number may be higher."

Clark Seif Clark, a leading provider of indoor air quality (IAQ) and environmental testing services, are experts at testing for the *Legionella* bacteria and other causes of respiratory illnesses. "*Legionella* bacteria can survive, and even thrive, in natural and manmade water systems," reported Derrick A. Denis, V.P. Indoor Environmental Quality at CSC. "Proactive maintenance of site water systems and periodic testing for the bacteria can help prevent outbreaks of the diseases associated with the organism."

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

Environmental Professionals Play Crucial Role in Remediating 'Bomb Factory' House

Earlier this year a residential property in Escondido, California was engulfed in flames. The flames were set by local authorities as a controlled burn in order to destroy countless homemade explosives.



Bomb Factory Goes Up in Smoke

The house was presumed to be filled with explosives, ammunition and toxic chemicals. Prosecutors called the home a 'bomb factory' and it was determined that burning the structure was the safest way to handle the situation.

According to news report from CNN the house "held the nation's largest ever cache of homemade explosives". Explosives found included hexamethylene triperoxide diamine (HMTD) and pentaerythritol tetranitrate (PETN). The property owner, a computer software consultant, has been arrested.

Due to the nature of the cleanup and hazardous materials found, Clark Seif Clark was hired as the health and safety consultants for the project. Norm Kramer, CSC's lead project manager for the project, worked under the direction of the California Department of Toxic Substance Control (DTSC) to monitor the remediation of the remnants of the burnt structure.

"The proper cleanup and remediation of this high profile case was of the utmost concern to all involved," reported Norm Kramer, Regional Manager at CSC. "We developed a health and safety plan, inspected the debris for any hazardous materials and ensured that all workers were following proper safety procedures. At the same time we were monitoring the air quality to make certain airborne dust and any asbestos that may have been present was not blown off-site. Once the remediation was complete the soils around the structure were tested to ensure there was no residual heavy metal contamination."

To learn more about how CSC can help with environmental, IAQ, mold and other environmental 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.



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