



Clark Seif Clark Environmental Newsletter

www.csceng.com 800.807.1118

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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.

Employment Opportunities: CSC is currently looking to add industrial hygienists and asbestos consultants/technicians to their team at their Los Angeles and Long Beach offices.

Workers in Some Industries Could Expose Family Members to Asbestos

Several years ago, an Oakland, California jury awarded over \$27 million in compensation to an elderly couple. A lawsuit had been filed because the wife of a man who worked with asbestos insulation years before developed mesothelioma. The couple claimed her condition was due to her husband exposing her to asbestos fibers he inadvertently brought into their home. This type of exposure to family members is often referred to as secondhand, secondary or take-home asbestos exposure.

Asbestos is the name given to six naturally occurring fibrous minerals. These minerals offer unique properties so they were used for decades in thousands of building materials and commercial products. While most of these products have been phased out over the past several decades, they can still be found in some older properties.

The Agency for Toxic Substances & Disease Registry reports that significant exposure to any type of asbestos will increase the risk of mesothelioma, asbestosis and lung cancer. They also report that asbestos-related disease has been diagnosed in not just workers that

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Clark Seif Clark
(CSC)

csc@csceng.com
800.807.1118

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dealt with asbestos and asbestos-containing materials, but also with family members. The National Cancer Institute states that this risk is thought to result from exposure to asbestos fibers brought into the home on the shoes, clothing, skin and the hair of workers.

"Even today with the asbestos regulations that are in place, workers and their families could be at risk if a worker has not been properly trained or informed about asbestos-containing materials they may handle or come across," said Franco Seif, President of Clark Seif Clark. "Unless a material is labeled as containing asbestos, which few are, the only way to know is to have it tested, regardless of the date of application. At CSC, we provide asbestos testing and consulting services to identify and mitigate exposure risks. These services also keep companies in compliance with asbestos regulations."

CSC recently sponsored a video about asbestos and secondhand exposure risks that can be seen here :



To learn more about asbestos or other environmental, health, occupational, indoor air quality and safety testing and consulting issues, please visit www.csceng.com , email csc@csceng.com or call (800) 807-1118.

PERC Exposure Risks Due to Vapor Intrusion and Other Pathways

The *San Gabriel Valley Tribune* recently published an article about indoor air quality testing that is being conducted by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Over 100 residential homes, commercial properties and recreational facilities have been tested so far for chemical contaminants in the El Monte and South El Monte areas. All of this is a result of concerns about chemicals migrating into the air inside of overlying homes and buildings near the San Gabriel Area 1 Superfund Site.

The chemicals being tested for include tetrachloroethylene (PERC)

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Is It Safe?

and the EPA reports that at least five properties have had treatment systems installed following the tests. PERC is a manufactured liquid chemical that has been used widely for dry cleaning, as a chemical intermediate, metal degreaser and as a component of some consumer products.

The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) has determined that tetrachloroethylene may reasonably be anticipated to be a carcinogen and the International Agency for Research on Cancer has classified it as a Group 2A carcinogen. Back in 1988, California designated PERC under Prop 65 as known to cause cancer.

People can unknowingly be exposed to PERC thru a process known as vapor intrusion . PERC vapors can enter a structure by migrating through contaminated soil or groundwater through cracks in the foundation and from contaminated bath, shower and drinking water. People can also be exposed if they use products containing the chemical or live or work in proximity to waste sites as is the concern in El Monte and South El Monte.

CSC's environmental consultants can identify PERC and a wide range of other chemical contaminants that may be present in residential and occupational settings to help prevent exposure risks. They have also sponsored an educational video about PERC and exposure risks that can be seen here:



To learn more about this or other environmental, indoor air quality, occupational, health and safety testing services, 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.