



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.

Protecting Workers from Exposure to Diacetyl and Other Respiratory Hazards

Last year, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) published the science blog, *Coffee Workers at Risk for Lung Disease*. It discusses two alpha-diketones, diacetyl and 2,3-pentanedione, both volatile organic compounds (VOCs) that workers can be exposed to when roasting coffee or working with certain food flavorings, such as butter-flavored cooking oils. Each of these chemicals is naturally produced when coffee beans are roasted.

The NIOSH document details a case where multiple workers from a coffee processing facility were diagnosed with bronchiolitis obliterans, a form of lung disease. Bronchiolitis obliterans occurs when small airways become inflamed and scarred. The symptoms and airways obstructions range from mild to severe and do not improve when the employee goes home. Bronchiolitis obliterans is a rare disease, so it is likely some workers in coffee roasting facilities have been misdiagnosed with asthma, bronchitis, emphysema or pneumonia in the past. The loss of pulmonary function associated with severe bronchiolitis obliterans is permanent, so preventing the disease is essential.

"As of early 2017 there are over 31,000 specialty coffee shops across the United States that employ several hundred thousand

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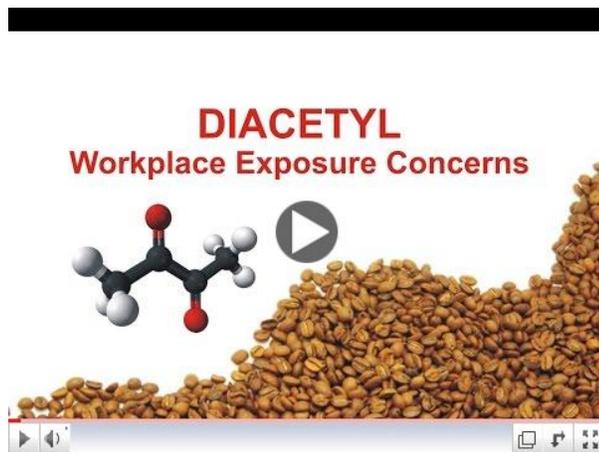
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workers," said Derrick A. Denis, V.P. of Indoor Environmental Quality (IEQ) at Clark Seif Clark (CSC). "Coffee shop workers have the potential for overexposure to respiratory hazards such as diacetyl and 2,3-pentanedione, particularly during or immediately following coffee bean grinding. Without measurements, the exposure risks are unknown."

Helping companies protect their workers from respiratory hazards are the industrial hygiene and air quality experts at Clark Seif Clark. Their professionals offer testing for diacetyl, 2,3-pentanedione, and wide range of other VOCs and airborne exposure concerns. They also provide solutions to mitigate worker exposures to airborne pollutants through training, engineering and administrative controls, and personal protective equipment (PPE). CSC has even sponsored an educational video about diacetyl and workplace exposure concerns that can be seen here:



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

Identifying Lead Poisoning Exposure Hazards in Residential Housing

There are still at least 4 million households in the United States that have children living in them who are being exposed to high levels of lead according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The agency also reports that no safe blood lead level in children has ever been identified.

In 1978 the federal government banned consumer uses of lead-containing paint, but almost 40 years later, one of the most likely sources of lead in a home is still due to the past use of these paints. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) even

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Is It Safe?

states that if a home was built before 1978, there is a good chance it has lead-based paint.

Lead from paint, including lead-contaminated dust, is one of the most common causes of lead poisoning. Contaminated dust can even be tracked into a home from soil outside that is contaminated. This could be due to deteriorating exterior lead-based paint and other lead sources, such as industrial pollution or the past use of leaded gasoline.

Children are especially vulnerable to toxic heavy metals such as cadmium, mercury, arsenic and lead, although people of all ages can be at risk of exposure. Because lead-based paint is frequently present in older residential structures, it is a common risk to many Americans. Lead exposure can affect nearly every system of the body. Fortunately, it is relatively inexpensive and simple for certified professionals to evaluate homes for the presence of lead-based paint and/or to perform lead risk assessments. Testing is particularly important before undertaking any demolition or renovation activities because these activities could create lead dust resulting in hand-to-mouth and airborne exposure risks.

To help identify lead hazards in residential, institutional and commercial properties, the environmental and building science professionals at CSC offer their expertise. Their state and federally certified team members provide lead testing and consulting services to ascertain and mitigate exposure risks, monitor lead removal activities, and provide clearance testing to ensure the success of remediation efforts. CSC also recently sponsored an educational video about lead exposure risks in residential housing that can be seen here:



To learn more about lead or other environmental, occupational, indoor air quality (IAQ), health and safety 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.