



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.

## New Cases of Occupational Asthma can often be Prevented

Occupational asthma, also known as work-related asthma, impacts workers' quality of life and reduces their productivity. It is the most common occupational lung disease in the United States and the condition increases costs to employees, families, businesses and even taxpayers.

According to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), "An estimated 11 million workers in a wide range of industries and occupations are exposed to at least one of the numerous agents known to be associated with occupational asthma. Occupational factors are associated with up to 15 percent of disabling asthma cases in the United States."

Occupational asthma results from exposure to allergens or irritants on the job and according to the National Institutes of Health (NIH), more than 250 substances are known or believed to cause or exacerbate work-related asthma. These substances include many chemicals used in manufacturing; paints; cleaning products; dusts from wood, grain and flour; latex gloves; mold; animals; and insects.

The condition can cause wheezing, chest tightness, shortness of

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breath and coughing. Symptoms may emerge hours after exposure to harmful substances or even months or years later. "Employers must develop and enforce health plans to protect their employees from exposure to harmful levels of chemicals," said Franco Seif, President of Clark Seif Clark. "Otherwise, some employees may become too disabled to work, while others may change jobs to avoid the substance or substances that caused their asthma. Unless occupational asthma is caught and managed early, it is likely to continue and get worse. At CSC, our environmental, health and safety professionals have the ability to help prevent new cases of occupational asthma from occurring through testing and monitoring services to identify environmental allergens and irritants. This information can then be used to prevent, reduce or eliminate exposure to these substances."

CSC recently sponsored an educational video about occupational asthma that can be seen at:



Occupational Asthma

To learn more about indoor air quality testing services or other environmental, 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.

## Northern California Residents Cautioned to be Aware of Indoor Hazards Following Recent Earthquake

Last month, the strongest earthquake to hit Northern California in 25 years caused widespread damage to properties and injured dozens of people. The 6.0 magnitude earthquake's epicenter was a few miles southwest of Napa and it knocked out power for thousands of area residents. The earthquake also caused gas leaks and a number of fires.

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**Is It Safe?**

As people survey the damage, they now need to be aware of aftershocks and potential hazards they may encounter as they reenter their homes and businesses and begin to cleanup and make repairs.

Check the utilities for gas leaks, electrical system damage and any leaks in the sewage or water lines in the property. Sewage may contain a host of microbial pathogens including bacteria, viruses and mold as well as chemical contaminants. It also releases odors that could cause safety issues. If water pipes are damaged they may cause water damage, structural damage and mold growth. An earthquake may also release large amounts of dust and it could contain asbestos and lead in older properties. New cracks in foundations and basements may also allow for radon or chemicals in the soil and groundwater to begin infiltrating into buildings.

CSC has environmental, health and safety professionals stationed across California to provide inspecting, testing and consulting services to identify a wide array of potential indoor environmental hazards. To learn more about these services, please visit [www.csceng.com](http://www.csceng.com), email [csc@csceng.com](mailto:csc@csceng.com) or call (800) 807-1118.

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**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.