



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, flood, tornado, or other natural disaster, Clark Seif Clark is ready to help and can respond in no time at all.

## Study Links Exposure to Cadmium & Lead to Hearing Loss

A study, recently published in *Environmental Health Perspectives*, of over 3,500 U.S. adults looked at the relationship between exposure to lead and cadmium and hearing loss. The participants were part of the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey and each was given a hearing exam and their blood was tested for lead and cadmium.

Researchers found that people with higher levels of the metals in their blood also had more hearing loss. One of the unique aspects of the study is the link between even low level exposure to cadmium and lead and hearing loss.

Many people are familiar with the toxic impact lead can have on humans, but far fewer are familiar with exposure to cadmium. Cadmium is a naturally occurring element. Today it is used in some types of batteries as well as in pigments, coatings, and platings as a stabilizer for plastics.

Workers in many industries face potential exposure to cadmium. The potential for exposure is perhaps highest among workers in electroplating, metal machining, plastics, ceramics, paint, and welding or soldering operations. Workers may also be exposed to cadmium from the smelting and refining of metals or from air in industrial plants that manufacture batteries, coatings, or plastics. Workers involved in landfill operations, the recycling of electronic parts, or the recycling of plastics are also at risk for potential exposure.

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"Exposure to cadmium that may be dangerous to people's health can occur in numerous jobs in which workers are exposed to cadmium dust or fumes," reported Franco Seif, President of Clark Seif Clark (CSC), a leading industrial hygiene consulting firm. "Workers can also be exposed by the incidental ingestion of dust from contaminated hands, food, or cigarettes. The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry has estimated that more than 500,000 workers in the United States face exposure to cadmium each year. There are government regulations regarding worker exposure to cadmium in the United States and occupational testing from Clark Seif Clark can identify and prevent situations that could otherwise put workers at risk."

CSC recently sponsored an educational video about health risks due to exposure to cadmium that can be seen at:



### Cadmium: Health Risks Due to Exposure

To learn more about testing for cadmium or lead, and other industrial hygiene and indoor air quality concerns, please visit Clark Seif Clark at [www.csceng.com](http://www.csceng.com), email [csc@csceng.com](mailto:csc@csceng.com) or call (800) 807-1118.

## Mold in California School Raises Concerns for Teachers, Students & Parents

In February, the *Ventura County Star* published an article about leaking roofs and health concerns over mold at Fillmore Middle School. The school, which is only a dozen years old, has been plagued with roof problems that have resulted in water damage to the school.

According to the article, the situation has gotten worse and mold has been found in some areas. The article quotes Earl Davis,

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**Is It Safe?**

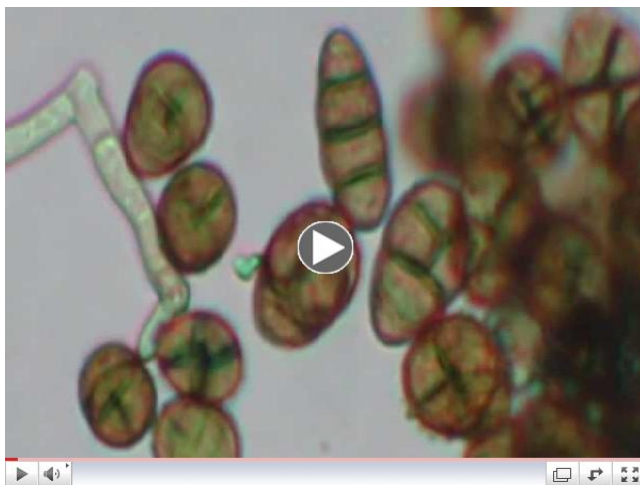
interim assistant superintendent for the Fillmore Unified School District, who stated, "There were leaks in the past, but they were not as significant as this year. This year has been the tipping point. This has gone from being a maintenance issue with occasional roof leaks to what could potentially become a health and safety issue."

In addition to visible mold growth, there have been reports of strong musty odors. Mold growing indoors can often easily become airborne and cause allergies, act as a trigger for asthma and some species of mold can even cause fungal infections in people with weakened immune systems.

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), "Poor indoor air quality (IAQ) can cause illness requiring absence from school, and can cause acute health symptoms that decrease performance while at school. In addition, recent data suggest that poor IAQ can reduce a person's ability to perform specific mental tasks requiring concentration, calculation, or memory."

If the water leaks continue, the problem with the mold is likely going to get worse. Clark Seif Clark's building science experts can identify the root cause of water damage in buildings and determine the extent of any mold and subsequent IAQ issues so that they can be properly addressed.

Clark Seif Clark recently sponsored an online video about the health effects due to mold exposure. It can be seen at:



### Health Effects of Mold Exposure

To learn more about how CSC can help with indoor air quality, mold and other environmental issues in schools and other structures, please visit [www.csceng.com](http://www.csceng.com), email [csc@csceng.com](mailto: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.