



# Clark Seif Clark Environmental Newsletter

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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.

## OSHA Releases Guidance on Indoor Air Quality in Commercial and Industrial Buildings

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) just released "Indoor Air Quality in Commercial and Institutional Buildings". The document provides useful guidance for indoor air quality concerns for building owners and operators as well as industrial hygienists and IAQ professionals.



OSHA

The OSHA guide states, "Indoor air quality (IAQ) is a major concern to businesses, schools, building managers, tenants, and workers because it can impact the health, comfort, well-being, and productivity of the building occupants. OSHA recognizes that poor IAQ can be hazardous to workers' health and that it is in the best interest of everyone that building owners, managers, and employers take a proactive approach to address IAQ concerns."

It goes on to report, "This OSHA guidance document on IAQ provides practical recommendations that will help prevent or minimize IAQ problems in commercial and institutional buildings, and help resolve such problems quickly if they do arise. It provides flexible guidance to employers to help them keep their buildings free of pollutants or conditions that lead to poor IAQ. It also provides information on good IAQ management, including control of airborne pollutants, introduction and distribution of adequate make-up air, and maintenance of an acceptable temperature and relative humidity."

### In This Issue

[OSHA Releases Guidance on Indoor Air Quality in Commercial and Industrial Buildings](#)

[Source of Mystery Mercury Spill Remains Unknown](#)



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The document addresses:

- Sources of Indoor Air Pollution
- Common Pollutant Categories
- Prevention or Control of IAQ Problems
- Applicable Standards and Regulations
- OSHA Assistance

To download a copy of the new OSHA guide on IAQ please visit:

<http://www.osha.gov/Publications/3430indoor-air-quality-sm.pdf>

To learn more about IAQ in commercial, industrial, institutional and residential environments please visit [www.csceng.com](http://www.csceng.com), email [csc@csceng.com](mailto:csc@csceng.com) or call (800) 807-1118.

## Source of Mystery Mercury Spill in Arizona Remains Unknown

On March 31<sup>st</sup>, the El Mirage Fire Department released a news bulletin about a mercury spill at a bank-owned home in the town. Fire crews from El Mirage and hazardous materials teams from the nearby towns of Peoria and Surprise responded to the scene. It is not known how a quantity of greater than one pound of mercury was spilled at the vacant home.



Mercury

Kary Environmental Services, a local haz-mat remediation firm, and Clark Seif Clark, a leading environmental consulting firm, were contracted to execute the cleanup. To date, the situation is contained and the nearby residents are not at risk. Cleanup efforts are complete. Closure testing by CSC indicated soil samples were in compliance with ADEQ's soil remediation levels and mercury vapor measurements outdoors and indoor met ATSDR recommended levels.

Mercury is a liquid metal at room temperature, but can easily evaporate. An article in the September 2010 issue of *Indoor Environment Connections* (IEC) newspaper entitled "All that Glitters is Not Gold - Sometimes it's Mercury" discusses the hazards the element poses to people. According to the article,

"It can get in your body via your gastrointestinal system if you eat or drink contaminated items, via your pulmonary system if you inhale mercury vapor, and via your integumentary system (skin) if you handle it. Mercury is difficult for the body to eliminate. It can accumulate in the body, reaching dangerous concentrations over time."

"The mysterious mercury spill in El Mirage was quickly stabilized and efficiently remediated to prevent area residents and future home buyers from exposure to this toxic metal," reported Derrick A. Denis, V.P. Indoor Environmental Quality at CSC. "Sadly, this apparently nefarious act of vandalism places yet another economic burden on Arizona businesses, real-estate and taxpayers at a time when budgets are seemingly at their tightest."

To learn more about mercury spills or other environmental and indoor air quality (IAQ) services 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.