



# Clark Seif Clark Environmental Newsletter

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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.

## National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week and Protecting Families and Workers from Exposure Hazards

Next week, National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week (NLPPW) is recognized across the United States. The event takes place from October 21st through the 27th in what the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) describes as a weeklong campaign to bring together individuals, organizations, industry, and state and local governments to help increase lead awareness by using their efforts and collaborations to reduce childhood exposure to lead.

This continues to be an important area of focus as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports that at least 4 million households have children living in them that are being exposed to high levels of lead. The CDC also states that there are approximately half a million U.S. children ages 1-5 with blood lead levels above 5 micrograms per deciliter ( $\text{Å}\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$ ), the reference level at which it recommends public health actions be initiated.

Lead can still be found in several places both inside and outside of numerous homes according to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). These sources include water that travels through lead pipes or in the soil around a house. However, the agency states it is mostly found in lead-based paint, which was used in homes before 1978. Accidentally swallowing or breathing in

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the lead dust created by this old, cracked and chipped paint is a leading cause of lead poisoning for many children.

"The CDC has stated that childhood lead poisoning is considered the most preventable environmental disease among young children," said Franco Seif, President of Clark Seif Clark (CSC). "Many workers in industries, such as construction, are also at risk for lead exposure. Whether discussing exposure concerns for adults or children, prevention is the key and at CSC our industrial hygiene, environmental and building science professionals provide lead consulting and testing services to identify existing lead hazards. With this information, corrective actions can be implemented to eliminate or mitigate exposure risks and prevent new cases of lead poisoning."

CSC also recently sponsored an educational video about National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week that can be seen here:



National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week  
2018

To learn more about lead or other industrial hygiene, building science, indoor air quality, environmental, health, and safety testing and consulting services, please visit [www.csceng.com](http://www.csceng.com) , email [csc@csceng.com](mailto:csc@csceng.com) or call (800) 807-1118.

## Testing for Tobacco and Other Smoke Residues and the New HUD Smoke-Free Housing Rule

On July 21st of this year, a final rule from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requiring Public Housing Agencies (PHAs) to implement smoke-free policies went into full effect. The new rule has a major impact on thousands of PHAs and the over 1 million households in the U.S. that live in public housing units.

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**Is It Safe?**

According to the new rule, each Public Housing Agency must implement a smoke-free policy banning the use of prohibited tobacco products in all public housing living units, indoor common areas in public housing and in PHA administrative office buildings. The smoke-free policy must also extend to all outdoor areas up to 25 feet from the public housing and administrative office buildings. This rule is meant to improve indoor air quality in the housing; benefit the health of public housing residents, visitors and PHA staff; reduce the risk of catastrophic fires; and lower overall maintenance costs.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) classified secondhand smoke as a Class A known carcinogen back in 1992. In 2006, the U.S. Surgeon General concluded that there is no risk-free level of exposure to secondhand smoke. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), nationwide, secondhand smoke exposure contributes to approximately 41,000 deaths among nonsmoking adults and 400 deaths in infants each year. Secondhand smoke causes stroke, lung cancer and coronary heart disease in adults. Children who are exposed to secondhand smoke are at increased risk for sudden infant death syndrome, acute respiratory infections, middle ear disease, more severe asthma, respiratory symptoms and slowed lung growth.

HUD's new rule is an important step for protecting people from tobacco smoke and residues, but this is not just an issue in public housing. The CDC reports that about 80 million people in the U.S. live in multi-unit housing and each year an estimated 28 million multi-unit housing residents are exposed to secondhand smoke in their home or apartment that came from somewhere else in their building.

As smoke-free policies become the norm in government-subsidized and private housing, along with most hotels and other rental properties, testing for tobacco smoke residues before people sign a lease or by property managers to ensure tenants have not smoked, is becoming ever more common. At Clark Seif Clark, their building science professionals offer testing services for environmental tobacco smoke, smoke and nicotine residues, marijuana smoke contamination, and a wide range of other indoor environmental quality issues. They have even sponsored an educational video about HUD's new smoke-free public housing rule that can be seen [here](#):



#### HUD's Smoke Free Public Housing Rule

To learn more about this or other air quality, building science, industrial hygiene, environmental, health and safety 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.