

Indiana IAQ

November/December 2010 Issue

About Indiana IAQ:

A new kind of newsletter that addresses the concerns of everyone interested in Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) in Indiana. From the many questions and concerns received this newsletter and the ones to follow are developed from specific concerns. Information is collected and applied this way to the articles published.

Who can write in? Anyone! Contractors, mitigation technicians, restoration and remediation technicians, real estate professionals, banks, doctors, lawyers, insurance professionals, investors, anyone with an interest in IAQ.

To submit an idea for an article, write to:
IndianaIAQ@solutionsiec.com.

Inside this issue:

Chemicals from Fast Food Wrappers Found in Humans	2
Safety, Health and Remediation Success—A Team Effort	2
Jason Yost Obtains Prestigious Professional Designation	3
Contact Information	4



Happy Holidays

Every year, about this time, I like to sit back and think about all of the many blessings in my life, relating them to where I have come from and all of those things that I still dream to realize for me and all of those around me. Overall, it is a wonderful time of year. My family and I have so much to be thankful for. One of the biggest being my grandson, Andrew.

Recently, my wife and I went to our grandson's school for Grandparents Day. While I was there I noticed that there were signs everywhere expressing a thankful spirit for this or that, and it got me wondering, "Where do you direct your thanks? To whom or what are you thankful?"

I began to make my list of people to whom I am thankful (God being at the top of my list) and quickly realized that there were a few that I hadn't considered before, some who were under-appreciated. Some of these people were too far removed to find and thank, while others were just around the corner, so I thought, "Why not use this newsletter to reach out to everyone that expresses their interest in me and my business?" and "Why not ask them to share their stories?"

So, here I am, grateful beyond measure to all of you for your expressed interest in me and SOLUTIONS, asking you to take part in Indiana IAQ's first poll question. Please write into IndianaIAQ@solutionsiec.com and tell us a little about who you are thankful to and why.

For everyone that has helped make SOLUTIONS IEC a success, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts and pray God blesses you, your families and businesses abundantly.

- Jason Yost, owner of SOLUTIONS IEC.



Ask us about the Lord, Jesus!



Chemicals from Fast Food Wrappers Found in Humans

Cinnaminson, NJ, November 11th, 2010

This week the “Environmental News Service” released an article about new research that was conducted at the University of Toronto. According to the article, chemicals used in food packaging that are meant to keep grease from leaking through fast food wrappers are leaching into the food products.

The researchers identified chemical contaminants in human blood revealing that prefluorinated chemicals (PFCs) can migrate from food packaging that has been treated with the chemicals. In a 2009 article in “ScienceDaily” another article discussed PFCs and a possible association with infertility in women. That article discussed other research that found that women with higher levels of the chemicals in their blood took longer to become pregnant.

PFCs are a group of manmade fluorine

containing chemicals which when applied to materials makes them stain and stick resistant. They can be found in everything from popcorn bags and pizza boxes to the wrapper found on fast food hamburgers. PFCs are stable chemicals so they do not readily break-down and may remain in the environment for long periods of time.

EMSL Analytical, one of the nation’s largest food testing laboratories, provides testing solutions for packaging and food safety. EMSL’s Materials Testing Division has extensive expertise in testing all types of packaging. The laboratory’s Food and Consumer Products Testing Division provides testing solutions from everything from shelf life studies to the detection of food-borne pathogens and sanitation validations.

“The new research about prefluorinated chemicals leaching into food products from their packaging is something that people need to be aware of,” reported Joe Frasca, Senior Vice President at EMSL. “Scientists at EMSL

Analytical have the expertise and the state of the art equipment to test food packaging to ensure potentially harmful chemicals are not migrating into the foods we eat.”

To learn more about food testing services please visit www.FoodTestingLab.com, www.EMSL.com, call (800) 220-3675 or email info@EMSL.com.

Author: EMSL Analytical, Inc. is a nationally recognized and locally focused provider of quality environmental and materials testing services and products to professionals and the general public. The company has an extensive list of accreditations from leading organizations as well as state and federal regulation bodies.

Safety, Health and Remediation Success—A Team Effort

A reader recently called me frustrated with their contractor. They explained that while they had had good experiences working with the contractor in the past (building on an addition) they were not pleased with the way the mold remediation project was coming along. When I asked them to be a bit more specific (what is it you’re not happy about?), they responded that the Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) contractor was not speaking with the mold remediation crews and the mold remediation crews were not communicating at all with them—in the meantime, some of the occupants were expressing concerns that the contractor’s work was spreading the mold around previously uncontaminated areas of their structure, causing them to get sick. (Two of the occupants have a diagnosed sensitivity to mold.)

When I asked them if they had spoken with their contractors about this, they responded, “*Sure, we have. All we get told is that we need to talk to their supervisor; they’re just doing what they were told to do.*”

Without going into any more specifics about their case, this caller got me

thinking about how a team effort is necessary for the safety and health of all materially interested parties to be secure and for the success of any remediation process. This is nothing new, but it does seem to be a lost care in many industries today; something I like to sum up as a lack of true service.

Too often I hear complaints from clients because their builder or remediator did not satisfy their expectations and did not communicate with them adequately about what the end results were to be (what the real expectations should be). Their complaint is that they feel they had to manage the contractors too much because they weren’t organized and/or careful.

One example of this came to my attention when a client called me for a mid-water restoration evaluation of her home and need for a generated protocol for the further work needed therein. This client informed me that the contractor came in, identified a contaminated water damage (requiring the removal of all of her floors), removed the floors in all rooms except the bedrooms, and began to put new floors

down over their existing sub-flooring. My client stopped them, however, because they were concerned to see the new floors going over visibly wet, wooden subflooring. They later told me, “*Jason, it’s like we’re suppose to be the professionals managing them—not them be the professionals we hired to take care of us.*”

When real-time and true communication does not exist between all materially interested parties on a project, quality and customer service are depreciated and the scientific approach and initial commitment to success is eroded. It may sound odd to some, but communication is the basis for all other functions—and it takes everyone to make everyone safe and secure.

As someone that often exists as the translator between contractors and building owners and acts as the director of operations on remediation projects, I can tell you that one team member in a group of materially interested parties can ruin it for the entire team. Going back to my original example and caller, this was a case where, upon investigation, one finds . . . (read more on page 4)

Jason Yost Obtains Prestigious Professional Designation

Jason Yost from SOLUTIONS Indoor Environmental Consulting Obtains Prestigious Professional Designation

Indiana, November, 2010

Jason Yost has been awarded the Council-certified Structural Drying Supervisor (CSDS) by the American Council for Accredited Certification (ACAC). This prominent designation recognizes Jason's knowledge and field experience in the water and flood damage industry.

The ACAC offers independent, accredited certifications to experienced professionals. Council certificate holders have demonstrated their knowledge and experience in such fields as building sciences, industrial hygiene, indoor environmental risk assessment and microbial investigation, remediation and consulting. Council certification programs are the most rigorous in their fields and maintain the highest professional standards.

Jason already holds two other of the industry's most prestigious awards:

- Council-certified Indoor Environmental Consultant
- Council-certified Microbial Remediation Supervisor

Jason says that he uses his knowledge base and advanced studies to *"help our clients find solutions to their indoor environmental problems; in fact, that was the whole point of starting SOLUTIONS [Indoor Environmental Consulting] to begin with. I saw a real need out there and wanted to answer that need."*

SOLUTIONS Indoor Environmental Consulting is one of a handful of companies with this kind of extensive peer-reviewed and awarded knowledge and experience. *"And that is what makes us so truly unique and different. We're capable of helping our clients find solutions to their needs."* Jason states. *"And this is what we try to do everyday."*

The American Council for Accredited Certification is a non-profit professional association dedicated to independent, third part accredited certifications. Our mission: To establish credible certifications that provide lasting value to professionals, their clients and the public. Our goal: To serve the public interest with integrity as an independent certifying body.

To learn more about Your Company or the American Council for Accredited Certification, please visit:

www.solutionsiec.com or www.acac.org.



“Don’t let problems with poor indoor air quality take control of your life. Empower yourself with SOLUTIONS—Indoor Environmental Consulting—today!”

(877) 624-7185

We’re on the web!
www.SolutionsIEC.com

SOLUTIONS IEC is a truly experienced business that, with over seventeen years of mitigation, restoration, remediation and hygiene practices, can assist you in determining the Category and Condition of the damaged structure; develop a protocol that is real and specific to the structure; and can provide expertise beyond just an inspector’s role. Our staff of professionals have been recognized in both indoor environmental consulting (Council-certified Indoor Environmental Consultants) and microbial remediation supervision (Council-certified Microbial Remediation Supervisors) - two of the most prestigious awards in the industry today! Don’t let poor IAQ take control of your life. Empower yourself with SOLUTIONS—Indoor Environmental Consulting—today!

Serving the Indiana and Illinois states!



Safety, Health and Remediation Success—A Team Effort

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)

- The HVAC crews were not trained in mold remediation and was not informed (by the hiring mold remediation company) of how their work could have an effect on the rest of the structure.
- The mold remediation crews and their supervisors were not trained in mold remediation; they were general contractors whose experience consisted of building additions and new structures.
- The building owners did not express their expectations up front with either contractor prior to hiring them; because, they felt that they could trust them given their past work experience with them.
- The primary contractor (the mold remediation company) did not express any expectation of their work to the home owner; instead, they just provided a one page estimate that had two sentences stating they

were removing moldy walls and flooring then rebuilding the two bedrooms for X dollars and cents.

- No one bothered to perform a pre-remediation assessment and gener-

“Jason, it’s like we’re suppose to be the professionals managing them—not them be the professionals we hired to take care of us.”

ate a remediation protocol establishing goals and conditions of successful mold remediation (in other words there was no company like SOLUTIONS IEC there to consult the building owners).

There was never a team; never a plan; never an understanding; never a chance for success. While I tend to agree with my client that they should not have to manage a “professional”, I have learned that you can never presume anything

either. To protect yourself against fraud, ill-business-practices, and the headaches that come from improperly planned remediation, you should always hire an independent consultant that can understand your needs, provide for those needs in the form of organization and empowering protocol, aid in the clarification of expectations for all materially interested parties, and clarify in a post-remediation verification success of procedures—someone trained with real-life experience in the areas of consultation and remediation.

You do not have to settle for less than the solutions you’re looking for. Empower yourself with SOLUTIONS—today, and see how we can help you avoid these disasters.

Author: Jason Yost, CIEC, CMRS, CSDS, WRT, and IN Licensed Asbestos Inspector, is owner of SOLUTIONS IEC, and has been in the cleaning, restoration, remediation, mitigation, and IAQ industry for over seventeen years. Visit Jason’s IAQ PRO.FILE at: www.iaqa.org/profile_agreement.asp?id=223.