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## Pontiac Fever: Damp Conditions in Winter Months Require Vigilance

With the winter season comes concern about indoor outbreaks that may result from prolonged exposures to indoor concerns. One concern to keep in mind is Pontiac Fever, an infection that results from exposure to *Legionella* bacteria. While milder than the more dangerous disease associated with this microbe (Legionnaire's Disease), Pontiac Fever nonetheless can present cause for concern. Symptoms of Pontiac Fever usually are presented within 2

to 5 days of exposure to the bacteria, which often results from the inhalation of aerosolized water originating from hot tubs, cooling towers, or HVAC systems. Symptoms include fever, muscle aches, and headache; however, unlike Legionnaire's Disease, the onset of pneumonia (and, thus, life-threatening conditions) typically does not occur.

Laboratory tests can confirm the presence of *Legionella* in the bloodstream, and a physician's diagnosis is

required to identify Pontiac Fever in a patient. Pontiac Fever is effectively treated with antibiotics. Good hygiene practices and regular inspections of HVAC components can help prevent the possibility of Pontiac Fever outbreaks.

*Source:*

*"Patient Facts: Learn More About Legionnaires' Disease," Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, 6/7/2008.*

## EPA Considers Alternative Method for Asbestos Abatement



The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has commenced with an initiative to consider an alternative means to remove asbestos from homes and buildings. For over two decades, asbestos removal has been federally regulated by the EPA's National Emissions Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP), which generally requires wet removal of asbestos-containing materials prior to demolition or renovation activities. The

alternative asbestos control method (AACM), motivated in part to seek newer ways to reclaim blighted properties for redevelopment, is under study by EPA's National Risk Management Research Laboratory. Pilot studies have been performed in Fort Chaffee, Arkansas and Fort Worth, Texas, to determine the effectiveness of AACM.

EPA representatives Roger Wilmoth and Adele Cardenas are slated to speak at the Environmental Information

Association's 2009 conference in Nashville, Tennessee ([www.eia-usa.org](http://www.eia-usa.org)). Updates on pilot study reports and peer reviews are anticipated at this session. As a conference exhibitor, CEI looks forward to hearing about the progress and comments on AACM.

*Source:*

*"Fact Sheet: EPA Study Looks for Better Asbestos Removal Technology," R. Wilmoth, 5/11/2007*

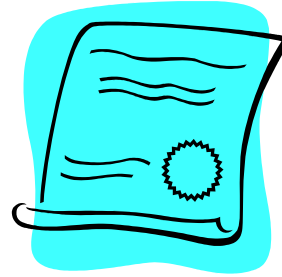
## CEI Professionals Receive Certifications

CEI congratulates **Stephen Kelly, Mike Bolling, and David Brummitt** for being our most recent recipients of the Healthcare Construction Certificate awarded by the American Society of Healthcare Engineers. By enrolling our staff in this program, CEI personnel are best enabled to work with and for the healthcare industry by attaining a firm understanding of the unique and complex challenges of

working on facility improvement projects while maintaining focus on patient and occupant health and safety.

CEI also congratulates Senior Industrial Hygienist **Tim Duffy, PE, CIH** for achieving his professional engineering license in North Carolina and Georgia. Tim performs quality control of industrial hygiene and engineering projects at CEI,

and his service to our clients and staff is invaluable to our firm!



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## Regulatory Updates

The State of South Carolina updated their asbestos rules ([Regulation 61-86.1](#)), which now require confirmatory TEM analysis of bulk samples.

The State of Maryland now requires the licensure of mold remediation companies and firms ([House Bill 1309](#)).

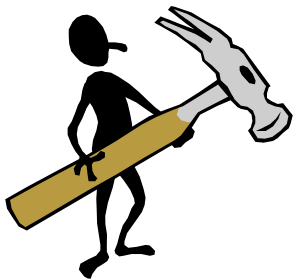


The San Diego County Air

Pollution Control District is considering [Rule 1220](#) for clarification and supplementation to federal asbestos standards.

Temporary suspensions (by gubernatorial proclamation) of asbestos regulations in Texas from Hurricane Ike expired on [November 6, 2008](#).

## About Our Organization



CEI is a full-service **environmental and industrial hygiene consulting firm** and provides a full range of

occupational compliance services, with a specialization in compliance consulting and testing for healthcare facility management providers. Based in Baltimore (Glen Burnie), Maryland, CEI provides compliance. We hope that you will find this newsletter beneficial when you select or recommend a consulting firm, and we will gladly provide a Statement of Qualifications package,

client references, and job-specific proposals upon your request. At CEI, we take great satisfaction in helping clients “turn problems into solutions.”



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