

GLOBAL INDOOR HEALTH NETWORK

WORKING TOGETHER FOR HEALTHY INDOOR ENVIRONMENTS
IN OUR HOMES, SCHOOLS AND BUSINESSES



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Major Setback for Moving Employees Out of "Moldy" California BOE Building

The governor apparently has succeeded in postponing the relocation of state employees out of the distressed California Board of Equalization headquarters until further study has occurred.

Legislation that would have begun the process of moving employees has been rewritten to instead authorize a survey of all state-owned buildings to identify those in the poorest condition.

The change, sought by the Brown administration, would effectively delay by at least six months a BOE relocation process originally envisioned by Assembly Bill 1656.

Under the new bill, the survey would be completed by July 2015. Lawmakers then would be able to move forward with requesting proposals for a formal site-selection process on up to three properties deemed most deficient.

The survey, which will encompass all state-owned buildings in Sacramento County and West Sacramento, already was approved in the 2014-15 budget. But Assembly Bill 1656 moves the completion deadline from five years to July 2015, Dickinson said. After that time, legislators would be able to authorize requests for proposals for up to three facilities.

The BOE headquarters building at 450 N St. has faced complaints of structural deficiencies for roughly two decades. In related news, BOE employees filed a \$75 million lawsuit against the agency last week, alleging illnesses related to mold in the property. It also alleges that BOE managers concealed the existence of the mold.

Click [here](#) to read the article.

New Website for GIHN

Exciting news!! The Global Indoor Health Network has a new website.

There are many new features including a "search" options, so visitors will be able to search for research papers and reports on specific topics or by title.

We expanded on our previous discussion about the "naysayers" who have spread their false claims that mold isn't harmful.

And, we added many additional reports by government agencies and others.

Check it out!!

<http://globalindoorhealthnetwork.com>

See *Mold Takes Over Woman's Apartment* on page 2

Mold Takes Over Woman's Apartment

A local woman's loved ones contacted Channel 11 News and asked for help with a mold problem inside her home.

Linda Upsher showed Channel 11's Pamela Osborne around her Pittsburgh apartment, and there was mold in every room. We've chosen to not identify the apartment until we hear back from the management company.

Upsher said she's moved out because the mold is so bad.

"It's in every single room," Upsher said. "It's in the bedroom, the bathroom, the living area. It's growing out of control."

According to Upsher, her doctor suspected the conditions were worsening her asthma and could perhaps cause other respiratory issues.

"It's coming out of the wall," she said. "This is what I've been living in."

"I stopped cleaning it. I was told by one of the maintenance guys, 'That's mold. Don't touch it,'" she said. "They didn't offer me help. They came and did inspections and took pictures."



"It's in every single room. It's in the bedroom, the bathroom, the living area. It's growing out of control."

Mold Takes Over Woman's Apartment (continued)

Here is the apartment management's response:

Property manager Sonya Bolling said maintenance workers and outside contractors have been hired to fix the problem.

The trouble, according to Bolling, is with the design of some of the property's 99 units.

"The units that they're in are airtight. It's all concrete, so there's every ingredient for mold to grow," Bolling said.

The apartment homes were built in the 1940s, and managers said inspectors cited poor ventilation for the mold.

"If we had a good heating system with good ventilation, we'd be well on our way to not having this problem at all," said Paul Mahoney, with Corcoran Jannison Management LLC.

Osborne reported the repairs would cost about \$1.2 million, a price tag that's high for the development.

"There is a serious problem. Our residents are living there and they shouldn't have to live like that," Bolling said. "We're trying to identify those individuals and put them in hotels."

Click [here](#) to read the entire article.

See *Child Deaths at Apartment Complex* on page 3

Parents Concerned After Child Deaths at Apartment Complex

Ka'Marion's death was initially called in and reported, police say, as respiratory arrest. It happened just three days after a 2-month-old boy also died suddenly in the same apartment complex (in Jacksonville, Florida).

"They all seem to be passing away the same way, and we don't have any answers," Rollins said.

It could take up to 10 weeks for an official cause of death to be determined. That has parents across Willow Bend worried the link could be where they live.

"I want them to tear into these walls, pull the carpets," said Marquese Hughes, Ka'Marion's father. "I want a state agency or somebody to come in and take a look at this. Otherwise, I'm afraid nothing will be done. We need answers."

"Some of these apartments have mold," Rollins said. "And my son plays at these apartments that have mold. I don't know if it's here in our apartment. Code enforcement came out, but they haven't told us anything."

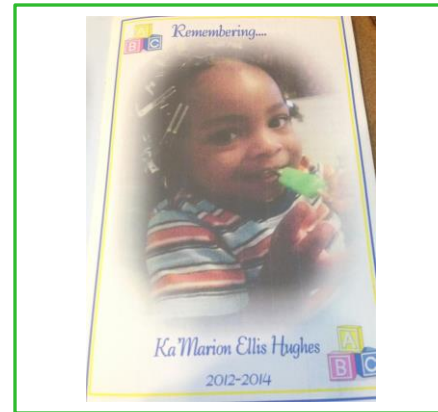
When Carolyn Hicks' 5-month-old son began experiencing respiratory issues, she rushed him to the hospital two days prior to Ka'Marion's death.

"That could have been my son if I didn't catch it in time," she said.

Initial diagnoses pointed to allergen exposure and recommended a mold count. Hicks went on to Arkansas Children's Hospital where more doctors conducted more tests.

"He was coughing and sneezing black up," she said. "They told me to get him out of the apartment as soon as possible."

Hicks said she is moving out of her apartment, claiming maintenance has refused to fix flooded carpets. According to her, maintenance opted to place fan on the floors, but the carpet is still visibly soggy with every step. She also claims the crew simply painted over what was mold growing through her ceiling.



Ka'Marion Hughes died in moldy apartment

Parents Concerned After Child Deaths at Apartment Complex (continued)

"They sent code out here. But the lady [management] was pushing, basically not letting us talk to Code Enforcement," Hicks said. "They are covering it up with paint."

Jemia Hollis' infant daughter is being treated by Children's Hospital for a rash that has also been attributed to environmental allergens.

She sent an email to management in May regarding mold growing on her walls, which she said maintenance sprayed with lyme but then boarded up without replacing.

HUD officials confirm this apartment complex receives federal subsidies. As such, management and owners are responsible for providing a safe, sanitary environment.

According to HUD, a company known as Southwest Housing Compliance Corporation (SHCC) oversees compliance issues with federal housing standards and apartment management.

If tenants find they are having ongoing issues, have reported concerns to management that go unfixed and have no luck speaking with the owners to resolve the issue, they can call SHCC to file a complaint at 1-888-842-4484.

Click [here](#) to read the article.

See *Cindy Crawford...levels of PCB* on page 4

Cindy Crawford Pulls Kids Out of Malibu High School Due to Elevated Levels of PCB

Better safe than sorry! Cindy Crawford is not taking any chances when it comes to the health and safety of her two kids Presley and Kaia, whom she shares with husband Rande Gerber. The celeb kids missed their first day of school at Malibu High School after testing showed elevated levels of PCBs at their school and others in the county.

PCB is a chemical typically found in the window caulking of older buildings that was outlawed by Congress in 1976. Over time it can cause cancer, damage the immune and reproductive system, and negatively impact brain development in children.

Crawford, 48, spoke on the Today Show with special correspondent Maria Shriver about her concerns for her children on Tuesday, Aug. 19.

"I don't feel 100 percent safe," she said during the interview. "I look 10 years down the line, what if my kid, God forbid, had a problem? How could I live with myself if I knew that it was a possibility, and I still sent them there?"

The supermodel offered to pay out of her own pocket for window caulking tests at Malibu High School, but the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) has agreed with the school district that the immediate problem has been handled through air testing.

"I am very frustrated and very disappointed at the way this has been handled," Crawford continued. "The problem is that they haven't tested the source. Unless they're testing every day, how do I know it's safe for my kid?"

Though she has now taken her children out of school, Crawford promised to continue spearheading the fight in favor of PCB testing.

"This is not a Malibu issue," she added. "This is really an issue in a lot of older schools. I just think the laws need to be changed."

Click [here](#) to read the article.



Cindy Crawford pulls kids out of Malibu High School due to elevated levels of PCB

Council Homes May be in Breach of Human Rights (Dublin, Ireland)

The Government will face major pressure to act on the substandard conditions in social housing complexes if a complaint made to the Council of Europe is upheld, one of its authors has said.

The complaint was lodged on behalf of residents from 20 housing complexes in Dublin and Limerick by the Paris-based International Federation for Human Rights.

It details poor conditions and a lack of facilities in state housing that, they believe, amounts to a breach of their basic human rights.

Academic and housing expert Padraic Kenna has said that the government will face mounting international pressure to resolve the issues raised if the complaint is upheld.

One development highlighted is Dolphin's House in Dublin.

The Herald previously reported on concerns that a third of residents there are living with mould and almost the same proportion complain of sewage invasion into their homes.

"The government will be forced to explain to the Council what they will do to meet the standards set out in the Social Charter," said Mr. Kenna.

Click [here](#) to read the article.

See *Flooding stories* on page 5

Flooding in Twin Falls (Idaho)

Last week the rain fell hard and fast in the Magic Valley with three and a half inches pouring down in just a 72-hour period.

"It was probably some of the worst flooding that we have had in Twin Falls," said City Manager Travis Rothweiler.

The rain fell so fast that the city's drainage system started to back up. Residents living in neighborhoods including those on Sigrid Avenue had roughly two feet of water in their basements.

Kristina Anderson is still cleaning up the mess. She came home from work on August 6th to find her basement knee deep with water and raw sewage that had bubbled up through a downstairs toilet and shower drain.

"Now I don't know what to do and I think there is black mold coming in," said Anderson.

Anderson has two children who have rooms in the basement and toys that were submerged in the water. Her son's new school clothes were also ruined.

Down the street, 79-year-old Harold Joy's basement and family possessions were also destroyed. His grandchildren came in to help gut the basement, remove items and dry it out.

For Kristina and her other neighbors, the struggle and the cleanup continues. Click [here](#) to read the article.

Flooding in Warren (Michigan)

As the Michigan governor visited her house in Warren to see the flood damage, Elizabeth Scaris could only watch from the small television at her hospital bed.

She'd scrambled a week earlier to salvage valuables from her basement. Her legs were jabbed and scratched.

When the waters receded, Scaris and her roommate were left with one of the worst cases of flood damage spanning several cities in metro Detroit.

Click [here](#) to read the article.

Check out the [GIHN video](#) "After the Flood."



Flooding in Phoenix (Arizona)

Some south Phoenix residents are sounding off about the storm that flooded their homes and streets, and could cost them thousands of dollars.

The storm hit last week near 19th Avenue and Dobbins, and homeowners say they're frustrated. Some blame the local government for putting their homes in harm's way.

On Monday evening, city and state leaders, SRP, and engineers held a meeting to address those concerns and discuss flooding in the area.

"You never think this is going to happen to you, and it happened, and you don't know what to do," said homeowner Vanessa James.

Flood waters took over her garage and her daughter's bedroom. "One of our bedrooms just got trashed. We had to rip up carpet," she said.

Homeowner Lonna Baccus had 14 inches of water rush into her home. She's now stuck with mud and water damage. "We're worried about the mold," said Baccus.

Neighbors said city and county engineers approved the plans that are now leaving their homes defenseless every time it rains.

Neighbors say they walked out of the meeting more frustrated than they were before. "We didn't get any answers. Just a lot of excuses," said Baccus.

Click [here](#) to read the article.

Click [here](#) to read an article about **flooding in Hartford City, Indiana**.

See *Leaky roof, mold, asbestos* on page 6

Leaky Roof, Mold, Asbestos Found at Concept Schools' Chatham Site

Standing water from a leaky roof.

Visible mold and a pungent smell that hangs in the air.

Floor tiles made of asbestos.

Those were just some of the problems Concept Schools (in Chicago, Illinois) had to contend with before getting a school building near Chatham ready for kids next month after scrambling to find a new location this summer, according to documents obtained through the Freedom of Information Act.

Chicago Public Schools CEO Barbara Byrd-Bennett last week announced she's not letting the school open because the South Side building, which once housed a private school, won't be ready for students next month.

"Mold is visibly evident throughout many of the classrooms. The mold and mildew is so bad, that a handful of the classrooms cannot be accessed due to the noxious, overwhelming, suffocating scent," an inspector wrote for CPS officials in July.

The property that was to house Concept Schools' Horizon Science Academy-Clay Evans is made up of two buildings. One of the buildings is in "dire condition" mostly because of a leaking roof, the inspector wrote.

"Water infiltration is so prevalent throughout most of the classrooms there is standing water, both on the floor and in the light fixtures in the ceiling," according to the inspection report. "Carpets in many of the classrooms are soaking wet, and tiles in specific communal areas are peeling. The majority of the acoustical ceiling tiles have been removed or fallen to the floor. Mold is visibly evident throughout many of the classrooms."

Click [here](#) to read the article.

Next Newsletter: October 1, 2014



Leaky roof, mold, asbestos in (Chicago, Illinois) Concept School

Mold Causes Emergency Workers to Evacuate

The Franklin County Health Department has shut down one of Ottawa's ambulance stations after finding mold. The building houses firefighters and EMTs.

"It's a health issue. It's important we take care of our people," EMS Chief Nick Robbins said.

Robbins found mold in the building about a week ago. The facility had some water damage from a roof leak in the kitchen and bedroom area where six firefighters and paramedics were living.

"We needed to get people out of here," Robbins said.

"It's always important that the health and welfare of our employees comes first," Ransom said. Whether anyone has an illness — we can't take the chance. Now we know there's mold and we value our employees; we can't take the chance."

Click [here](#) to read the article.

Quick Links:

Website: <http://globalindoorhealthnetwork.com>

Health Effects:
<http://www.globalindoorhealthnetwork.com/health-effects>

Position Statement:
<http://www.globalindoorhealthnetwork.com/GIHN-position-statement>