

GLOBAL INDOOR HEALTH NETWORK

"WORKING TOGETHER FOR HEALTHY INDOOR ENVIRONMENTS"

<http://globalindoorhealthnetwork.com>

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GIHN New Member

Stephanie Cranford lives in Enterprise, Alabama. She was working on a degree in zoology when she became ill. The research center at her University had significant water damage. Stephanie is interested in learning more about environmental hazards, toxicity and avoidance.

Child Sick from Mold at School

The family and doctor of a 6-year-old boy who spent three days at the hospital say mold at his elementary school may be to blame. "We took him to a doctor who listened to his chest and said, 'Get him to the hospital right now.' The doctor said he was in respiratory distress." Chesapeake Schools were aware there was a mold problem because they hired McKee Environmental that determined the A/C window units were off during the summer and humidity was so great mold grew in several classrooms.

[Child Sick from Mold at School](#)

Navy's Liability at Issue in Court Cases for Moldy Military Housing

New developments are coming out of Norfolk Federal Court stemming from NewsChannel 3's investigation into moldy military housing.

Marine wife Shelley Federico was the first to sue Lincoln Military Housing for negligence, and Thursday a federal judge heard arguments from attorneys on both sides of her case to determine if the Navy may be held liable in mold cases.

More than 200 families came forward to NewsChannel 3 over the past year, sharing their stories of mold and water damage in Lincoln Military Housing, with many of them expressing their desire to sue the company for negligence.

Now, all potential lawsuits hang in the balance, waiting on Judge Robert Doumar to decide if these cases will be heard in federal court, or in Norfolk Civil Court.

The determining factor comes down to the Navy and their involvement in privatized military housing. Are the Navy's interests at stake if these families sue Lincoln, who managed all these homes? Would the federal government be held liable in some way?

To try to determine that, Judge Doumar asked Lincoln to provide a copy of their 2005 Operating Agreement and Ground Lease with the Navy. NewsChannel 3 requested those documents through the Freedom of Information Act back in November, but the copy we eventually got was mostly blacked out, with all the important information redacted.

Lincoln did (finally) provide a full version of the contract for Judge Doumar's court, but only under seal, which bars the public from seeing it, and bars attorneys from discussing it. After four hours of arguments Thursday, Judge Doumar said he will wait to make a final ruling.

[Navy's Liability at Issue for Moldy Military Housing](#)

See *Family in Egypt...fungus invasion* on page 2

Family in Egypt Forced Out of Home after Fungus Invasion

A potentially dangerous form of fungus has forced an Egyptian family out of their home in Sharjah.

Dr. Nasser, 42, has been living in a Dh400-per-night hotel with his wife and three daughters since September 4, the day he returned from holiday to discover the havoc wreaked by the mould in his two-bedroom Al Majaz apartment.

"Everything is destroyed. My 40-inch LCD TV, my expensive sofa, our bedroom sets, washing machine and all our clothes. I am still counting my losses," said Dr. Nasser.

"I was looking forward to relaxing after an exhausting one month vacation, but when I opened the apartment door I was shell shocked. **Everything was covered in black mould. I am a pharmacist by profession and know the health risk mould exposure poses, especially to kids. I asked them to stay back while I stepped inside to inspect the extent of the damage. It was far worse than I had imagined. We immediately decided to move to a nearby hotel.**"

The World Health Organisation recently published a report on toxic mould, known as mycotoxins, that notes significant health issues. It warned that "exposure to mycotoxins can produce both acute and chronic toxicities ranging from death to deleterious effects on the central nervous, cardiovascular and pulmonary systems."

"I can't take that risk. The real estate management is getting the apartment cleaned, but I know it's easier said than done. I don't want to live there any anymore. I have asked them to relocate us in another flat in the same building but they are not willing to listen or reason. "The mould was caused because they rushed a paint job. They applied another coat of paint without allowing the first coat to dry. The moisture left in the walls and ceilings created the perfect environment for fungus to grow and form colonies," said Dr. Nasser, who's threatening to file a case against the real estate company for damages.

[Family Forced Out of Sharjah Home after Fungus Invasion](#)



Moldy ceiling in family's home in Egypt

Six Months to Remove Moldy Ceiling Tiles at Scranton School

It took the Scranton School District six months to remove moldy ceiling tiles from William Prescott Elementary School, despite a report detailing the problem that was circulated by at least one district employee five months ago.

Top officials did not know about the report, Superintendent William King said Monday. The day after the tiles were replaced, however, Mr. King told The Times-Tribune that the work had been on the maintenance staff's to-do list since the spring, but workers just got to the job after a busy summer.

The length of time it took the district act on the report, and a lack of information from the district, has many parents concerned.

Some of Prescott's students are from the now-closed Audubon Elementary School, which the district permanently shuttered this year because of mold and the high cost to reopen the building.

At least one parent has had a copy of the report since April - five months before Mr. King said he was made aware of it.

In the March 2 report by Guzek Associates, a Clarks Summit environmental engineering firm, the firm noted ceiling tiles and other material that exhibited "physical evidence of water-damaged materials."

[Six Months to Remove Moldy Ceiling Tiles at Scranton School](#)

See *Orlando Complex...mold problems* on page 3

Orlando Complex Dealing with Mold Problems Again

An Orlando apartment complex is dealing with serious mold problems again.

WFTV first highlighted the issues at the Catalina Isles Condominiums along LB McLeod Road, near John Young Parkway, about two years ago.

Channel 9's Ryan Hughes found out the mold is back and residents said the city isn't doing anything to help.

The city found hundreds of code violations about two years ago.

Some residents said it's gotten so bad again that they want the city to shut the place down.

WFTV visited the Orlando apartment complex last year and the first thing our crews noticed was weeds growing from mold.

One year later, and there's still mold in some units.

"The problems that exist were here when I got here, and so forth. Nothing has been done," said resident Jim Dandy.

Some units have actually gotten worse. After a rain storm, a hole formed in the ceiling and then came the mold.

The homeowner's association and individual unit owners were cited and have 30 days to fix the problems.

In March 2011, the city found hundreds of code violations and it appears some of the problems were simply never fixed or just got worse.

Resident Deena Scott has an idea of her own that she wants city leaders to consider.

"Condemn it. They need to condemn the place. Quit patching it up, Band-Aid it. Go ahead and condemn this place," said Scott.

[Orlando Complex Dealing with Mold Problems Again](#)



KB Home Victims Studying Legal Options

Homeowners in the distressed Willowbrook Townhomes community (in Bradenton, Florida), built by KB Home, met with new attorneys Wednesday afternoon to explore their legal options. And they came armed with the findings from a 10 News investigation into possible fraud by the home-builder.

With crumbling balconies, severe water intrusion, and out-of-control mold problems, the homeowners thought an arbitration clause they all signed at closing prohibited them from taking legal action against KB Home. While the homebuilder has promised to fix all the problems at Willowbrook, the "fixes" haven't come close to fixing all the problems.

The homeowners say their homes are virtually worthless, and in some cases, unliveable. But when the 10 News Investigators reported former employees had come forward to voice concern about structural defects back in 2007, it opened legal doors to the homeowners.

"(If) there's a substantial material defect that arises," said Stetson Law Professor Darryl Wilson, "they have an action for a 'fraudulent concealment' [lawsuit]."

Wilson says homebuilders have a legal obligation to build reliable homes, but the failure to disclose defects could add on to KB Home's legal headaches.

"The fraud thing opened up so many doors for us," said Armando Oyola-Delgado, a Willowbrook homeowner who bought in 2007, but has had to move out of his home because of health issues. "We now have an avenue that doesn't require us to go to arbitration; we have an avenue that's kind of putting their hands in the fire."

[KB Home Victims Seeking Legal Options](#)

See *Member Profile: Erik Johnson* on page 4

Member Profile: Erik Johnson

I am a survivor of the 1985 Lake Tahoe Mystery Illness, and I helped start what is probably the most controversial syndrome in medical history--"Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (CFS)."

As told in *Mold Warriors* and *Surviving Mold*, I stumbled over a peculiar reaction I was having to microbial colonies. I asked for help in researching this effect, and for this reason, agreed to become a prototype for "Chronic Fatigue Syndrome."

<http://www.cfsuntied.com/toxicmold.html>

Researchers were so adamant that "CFS" should be a virus alone that virtually no CFS researchers ever followed up on this clue--even after *Mold Warriors* and *Surviving Mold* were published. To this very day, they still continue to refuse to examine all the evidence surrounding the inception of the syndrome.

Yes, there was a viral-type illness, but is that ALL there was? Their rationale for refusal is that "Mold can't happen everywhere", and since they have artificially constrained what mold can and cannot do, they are restricting their ability to perceive, identify and understand the phenomenon.

It is odd that they readily believe bacteria can mutate into "superbugs" and spread. Yet, they wish to take refuge in the blind hope that fungi are immutably inalterable, and this can never happen.

During the Tahoe outbreak, it felt to me that many buildings were simultaneously "acting up"--an observation that was summarily dismissed as impossible.

But is it? After a storm, which seemed to amplify my illness, I went to the beach to get some fresh air, but what I felt was a burning sensation instead.

The waves had dredged up silt and sediment to create flat shelf-like layers, perhaps four feet wide, with a vertical rise of two or three inches on each "stair step". Every vertical portion was an intense, neon green color.

I pointed it out to people, who were equally mystified.



*Erik Johnson—10 Time Mt. Whitney Climber
Thanks to Mold Avoidance*

Member Profile: Erik Johnson (continued)

"It must be grass" some said.

"Grass that grows overnight? And, have you ever seen grass so green?"

Someone said, "Well, whatever it is, it must not be bad, or someone would tell us."

Who might that be if no one recognized what was happening? What if it had been bad, an algal bloom that increased ambient levels of neurotoxins all across the north end of Lake Tahoe?

Couldn't that account for a sudden increase in Sick Building Syndrome across a wide area as we were thrown into "overtolerance?"

In this 1996 Primetime news report, just as Dr. Nancy Snyderman says, "There was no warning... no clue in the fall of 1984 that life would be any different..."

Perhaps there was! Look down at the water. That green color didn't used to be there. I think we got hit with a hypertrophication biotoxin event.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AW0x9_Q8qbo&feature=related

Book Chapters written by Erik Johnson:

2005 "Mold Warriors" Chapter 23, "Mold at Ground Zero for CFS"

2010 "Surviving Mold" Chapter 17. "The Novice Pilot. CFS and other Medical Mistakes"

See *Strange Fungus at School in Trinidad* on page 5

Strange Fungus at Secondary School in Trinidad

Parents of students attending the Palo Seco government secondary school (in Trinidad) have vowed to keep their children from attending classes until a mystery fungus, which appears to be spreading throughout the compound, has been identified and the school's premises fumigated.

The parents, together with several teachers and students, staged a peaceful placard demonstration outside the school's SS Erin Road compound yesterday, while the sounds of power-washing could be heard emanating from inside the school's compound by contractors engaged by the Ministry to sanitise the school.

Palo Seco parent teachers association, 2nd vice-president, Marjorie Figeroux-Thomas, expressed dissatisfaction with the Ministry of Education's silence on the nature of the fungus, and the possible impact on the health of their children.

"Our main concern is if our students and teachers have contracted this, and showing symptoms we would not know what to look for, neither do we know how serious this is," she said, adding, "so far we have not gotten no communication from the Ministry of Education, no one is speaking to us."

She pointed out that the Caribbean Industrial Research Institute, (CARIRI), had taken some samples of the fungi for testing, saying the results would be known sometime next week.

"We are deeply concerned about our children's education and their health. This is the reason for us being here today, and we would continue to be here until someone addresses us, and tell us exactly what is taking place," she added.

In full agreement was TTUTA staff representative, Barrington Richardson, who stated that the school's 40-plus teachers, would not be returning to the school's compound until a definitive statement was made on the issue.

[Strange Fungus at Secondary School in Trinidad](#)



Mold Problem at University of South Carolina Dorm

The University of South Carolina is working to eliminate a mold infestation from a 73-year-old dorm that forced some students out of their rooms.

Students began noticing mold forming in some Sims dorm rooms two weeks ago, and the school reacted with letters to parents, inspections and testing.

After getting test results, three of the dorm's 117 rooms required enough cleaning to move six students to new housing, USC spokesman Wes Hickman said. Another nine students with histories of respiratory ailments have chosen to leave Sims, he said.

But some parents are concerned about the health effects from the mold.

"She was exposed to something that we might not see until much later," said Lynn McKenzie of Atlanta, whose daughter has been fighting a persistent cough since her first weekend on campus. "It's not making me comfortable for her to continue living there."

McKenzie said her daughter never suffered a respiratory ailment before moving into Sims last month. Hickman said the campus health center has not seen a rise in respiratory cases.

Kirsten Kennedy, USC's executive director of university housing, wrote in an email that broken fiberglass pipe insulation in several closets along with "excessive rains" led to higher than normal humidity levels in the dorm.

[Mold Problem at University of South Carolina Dorm, Some Students Relocated](#)

See *Cleaning Supplies...457 Pollutants* on page 6

Tests of Cleaning Supplies Found 457 Indoor Air Pollutants

The Environmental Working Group (EWG) commissioned tests of commonly used school cleaners reveal the wide range of chemicals children can breathe in each day at school. More than 20 products were selected based on a survey of the cleaning supplies used by several major California school districts, and tested individually by a leading laboratory that specializes in studying air pollution released by cleaning products. In a key part of this investigation, this state-of-the-art air quality laboratory cleaned a model classroom using multiple products at the same time, a first-of-its-kind test to measure the real-world pollution that occurs when typical assortments of cleaning supplies are used together.

The results are alarming. For example, some of the cleaning supplies used at home as well as at school release the highest number of contaminants measured. Some cleaners that appear "green" are anything but, misleading schools and consumers with marketing claims. Certified green cleaners, those meeting strict standards from independent groups, emit fewer contaminants on average and are safer choices for schools.

Key findings:

- 457 distinct air contaminants were released by the 21 cleaning products tested. Comet Disinfectant Powder Cleanser emitted 146 contaminants, more than any other product tested. Glance NA, a certified green janitorial glass and general purpose cleaner, emitted just one air contaminant, the fewest detected.
- 24 of the chemicals found in these cleaners have well-established links to asthma, cancer, and other serious health concern

To read the entire report:

[Tests of Cleaning Supplies Found 457 Air Pollutants](#)

[Next Newsletter: November 1, 2012](#)



Al Muneera development in Abu Dhabi

Tenants Want Their New Abu Dhabi Homes in Good Order

Within weeks of moving into his brand-new flat in May, Assad Dualeh noticed dark patches of mould forming around the air-conditioning unit.

There was also a lot of condensation on the doors and around the air-conditioning vents.

Mr. Dualeh persistently called the company that maintains his rented apartment in Al Muneera development to do something about it - their response was to spray paint over the mould.

"That is not acceptable," said Mr. Dualeh, an Emirati. "You cannot just paint over mould. And for the last three weeks there has been no action."

[Tenants Want Their New Abu Dhabi Homes in Good Order](#)

Quick Links:

Website: <http://globalindoorhealthnetwork.com>

Members:
<http://globalindoorhealthnetwork.com/members.html>

Health Effects:
http://globalindoorhealthnetwork.com/health_effects.html

Working Together for Healthy Indoor Environments