Black Mold—An Unrelenting Scourge

Read this outstanding, short but to-the-point, accurate article from The Epoch Times, "Black Mold—An Unrelenting Scourge (Part One)". We look forward to parts two and three! (SMH)

Black Mold—An Unrelenting Scourge (Part 1)
http://www.theepochtimes.com/n2/content/view/12621/

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Epoch Times Staff Feb 24, 2009

Black mold growing on the wall of a living room in a home that was flooded. (Marie Sanchez)

A Special Three-Part Series

Black mold and its toxic properties have been a serious health risk for centuries. It surfaces in homes where wet conditions and humidity fester, producing the conditions for its persistent growth.

Insurance companies, landlords, real estate agents, and others have often denied its devastating health effects. As a result, procedures provided to clean or medically identify mold exposure are often inadequate. The health problems vary with the exposure and can lead to long term problems or in some cases death. Black mold presents a quandary of international proportions. However it is not a new problem, as evidenced in a quote from Leviticus 14:39-47:

"On the seventh day the priest shall return to inspect the house. If the mildew has spread on the walls, he is to order that the contaminated stones be torn out and thrown into an unclean place outside the town. If the mildew reappears in the house after the stones have been torn out and the house is scraped and plastered, it is a destructive mildew and the house is unclean. It must be torn down - its stones, timbers and all the plaster - and taken out of town."

So the black mold scourge has been known and dealt with since biblical times.

As black mold is a naturally occurring growth in nature the research available to the public is often small and conflicting. The Illinois Department of Health states black mold is Trichothecene mycotoxin (T-2) and is a naturally occurring poison produced by fungi. According to a report from the U.S. Army on "Biowarfare Research and How it Impacts Mold Illness," it states, "Molds produce neurotoxic substances. Most people are familiar with poisons from a black widow spider or scorpion - mold neurotoxins are very similar. The most toxic neurotoxins from mold are called trichothecenes; they are known to be neurotoxic and are produced by more than 60 molds, especially the common indoor molds Stachybotyrs, Fusarium, and Trichoderma."

The Army began its research approximately 30 years ago when "Yellow Rain" was used in Southeast Asia. This resulted in a plethora of Army research into neurotoxins and their effect on humans. This research is now declassified and available from the Surgeon General's office. The research is significant because it involved human subjects. The Russians began their research into black mold in the 1920's. "Yellow Rain" is the name for black mold which was used as a chemical-biological agent by the Russian's in Southeast Asia (Vietnam) in the l970's. Russia also used Yellow Rain against Afghanistan. Yellow Rain can be used to clear out an area of Indigenous people and within 24 hours occupying forces can move in to inhabit the area. Again, "Yellow Rain" is said in this report to lose all toxic effects within 24 hours after being exposed to oxygen.

The United States Military Medicine Manual, Chapter 34, covers T2 mold research definitively stating its toxic capacity (http://www.envirochex.com/Downloads/Chapter34_Military_Medicine.pdf). This manual may be the most comprehensive coverage of the effects of black mold, including generic mycotoxicosis, a systemic poisoning caused by toxins produced by fungal organisms.

More research data was recently released by the U.S. Government Accounting Office (GAO) that admits the mold is dangerous but is not as comprehensive in its coverage as the military report.

On Sept. 30, 2008, the GAO published a summary of the health effects caused by exposure to indoor mold, and is appropriately titled "Indoor Mold," and subtitled "Better Coordination of Research on Health Effects and More Consistent Guidance Would Improve Federal Efforts." The study was introduced by Senator Edward Kennedy.

Already this year stories related to black mold and its harm have been surfacing in the press. The Epoch Times reported on Jan. 15, 2009, a black mold contamination in a Swedish school and Fox News covered a story on Jan. 11, 2009, of a Loudoun, Virginia family awarded 4.75 million dollars from the contractor of their new million dollar home for negligence which allowed their home and all their belongings to become infested with black mold that created severe health problems.
Taking a serious look at the problem, Part 2 of our coverage will include interviews with people who are being affected by mold, as well as advice from experts in the field on how to avoid and remediate black mold infestations.
Last Updated
Feb 25, 2009

References found on SMH site with regard to above article (a fraction of what we have, please enter search terms into our site search engine for full references):

46. "How Molds and Mycotoxins Affect Human Brains" (Kilburn)

(Information/Sick Building Symptoms)
...ndings: Mold exposures indoors were associated with neurobehavioral impairment probably from mycotoxins, such as trichothecenes. Abstract Information & Notes Kaye H. Kilburn,...

47. Trichothecene Mycotoxins...(Croft)

(Information/Sick Building Symptoms)
Speech Title: "Pathology of Trichothecene Mycotoxins in Man", by William A. Croft, DVM, PhD, Date of Talk: June 19, 2003, The American Environmental Health Foundation &

48. Trichothecene mycotoxins

(News/Latest)
Trichothecene mycotoxins are so potent, they are used in biological warfare The significance of this selection is to provide, from a 1997 US Army Military Manual, the description of what h

39. Pulmonary cytotoxicity of secondary metabolites of Stachybotrys chartarum

(Information/Mold Research)
...olonizer of surfaces in affected buildings. Known adverse health effects of S. chartarum result from its toxins--trichothecenes or atranones, as well as spirolactams. Mechanism of their potential path...

37. Stachybotrys chartarum: The Toxic Indoor Mold

(Information/Sick Building Symptoms)
...oisoning by this fungus is referred to as stachybotryotoxicosis. S. chartarum produces a variety of macrocylic trichothecenes and related trichoverroids: roridin E and L-2; satratoxins F, G, and H; ...

15. Toxigenic molds and more, articles by Harriet Ammann, PhD

(Information/Sick Building Symptoms)
...branes: T-2 toxin; anorexia: vomitoxin. Respiratory system: respiratory distress, bleeding from lungs e.g.,

trichothecenes Nervous system, tremors, incoordination, depression, headache, e.g....

3. Adverse Health Effects of Indoor Molds

(Information/Sick Building Symptoms)
...nd/or severity of respiratory problems such as asthma, wheezing and rhinosinusitis. Stachybotrys produces trichothecenes and other mycotoxins, which can inhibit protein synthesis and induce hem...

4. Stages of Mycotoxicosis: Inhalation of Mycotoxins (Croft)

(Information/Sick Building Symptoms)
...demonstrate the pathologic changes in the primary target organs after inhalation verses ingestion exposure to Trichothecene Mycotoxins in man. (Croft) ...

25. Dangers of Trichothecene Mycotoxins

(Information/Did You Know)
The trichothecene mycotoxins are toxic to humans, other mammals, birds, fish, a variety of invertebrates, plants, and eukaryotic cells in general. Once the trichothecene mycotoxins enter t

1. New-home mold leads to major medical problems

(News/Latest)
...common (SMH). Sick House, Suffering Family Mold Leads to Major Medical Problems, Legal Battle in Loudoun http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/01/31/AR2009013100796.htm...

2. Family Awarded $4.75 Million for Toxic Mold in Loudoun County, Va. House

(News/Latest)
...c mold growing behind the walls of their home. Tisha Thompson FOX 5 Reporter Loudoun County, Va. -- The Meng family spent nearly a million dollars to bu...

4. GAO: MOLD Audit 2008 Updated

(Information/Mold Research)
...spread and, for some people, serious health threat." (US General Accounting Office, 2008) The GAO (USA General Accounting Office) Audit on Mold that took two years to complete is now posted a...

1. US Military: Dangers of Trichothecene Mycotoxins

(Information/Sick Building Symptoms)
Learn about how common mold mycotoxins can impact health in a dire manner, per the US Military. Dangers of trichothecene mycotoxins (found in several common school molds): "This....