

# WONDER MAKERS ENVIRONMENTAL

SEPTEMBER 2015 E-NEWSLETTER

## A Legacy of Good from Disaster

Ten years ago Hurricane Katrina, the most destructive and expensive natural disaster in the history of the United States, made landfall in Louisiana. FEMA set up a Mitigation Assessment Team (MAT) when the storm had passed, and Michael Pinto of Wonder Makers Environmental was invited to join the team. Thanks in large part to the MAT, FEMA and the mitigation community have been able since then to take the disaster that was Katrina and turn it into something constructive for the impacted communities and the nation as a whole. Progress has been made in both voluntary actions to elevate and repair existing buildings and regulatory requirements for new construction. John Ingargiola, Hurricane Katrina Mitigation Assessment Team Manager, recently wrote this to the team members:

"The Katrina MAT effort led directly to a broader national platform to make mitigation part of the conversation for a large and diverse audience concerned about the effects that a major hurricane would have on their community. Hurricane Katrina has shaped the national dialogue on building for flood resistance, and has not only led to improved resilience in the impacted area, but has led to greater resilience in the national model codes and FEMA's best practices for flood and wind mitigation. Again, we thank you for your participation on the Katrina MAT - you should be proud of this accomplishment and its ongoing legacy. I am deeply grateful for having worked alongside you and I will always cherish the fond memories, the dedication and the professionalism you all displayed in accomplishing the MAT's mission for this truly historic event."

While helping to advance the entire restoration industry is important, the service that Wonder Makers team members offer on projects like the FEMA MAT and in a number of industry associations has a direct benefit to our clients as well. That type of experience, and the professional contacts that come along with such work, are resources that we use regularly to assist with finding the best approach to the "mini-Katrinass" that devastate homes and businesses on a daily basis.

### TRAINING SCHEDULE

#### Certified Mold Professional

October 26-28: Ontario, CA

#### Mold Remediation Technician

November 3-5: Kalamazoo, MI

#### Mold Remediation Supervisor

September 9-10: Kalamazoo, MI

#### Mold Refresher

November 11: Kalamazoo, MI

For complete schedule see:

[WonderMakers.com/Education](http://WonderMakers.com/Education)

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## Did You Know?

Wonder Makers can do air sampling for formaldehyde in laminate flooring (or other sources). The option of renting the equipment for DIY samples is also available. Call us at 269-382-4154 for more information.

As of June 1, the MSDSs you have available for your employees must be changed to SDSs (Safety Data Sheets) in order to be in compliance with OSHA's revised Hazard Communication Standard. For more information see OSHA's Hazard Communication webpage: <https://www.osha.gov>

## ASHRAE & IAQA Offer

### Dual Membership Program

A new dual membership program is available to members of ASHRAE and the Indoor Air Quality Association (IAQA) as part of consolidation between the two groups finalized earlier this year. ASHRAE, through publishing, education, standards writing, and research, offers building design and operation guidance. IAQA focuses on providing information on the quality of the indoor environment, including updates on governmental and regulatory activity. Wonder Makers' CEO, Michael Pinto, serves on the board of IAQA.

ASHRAE members interested in joining IAQA should visit [here](#).

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