

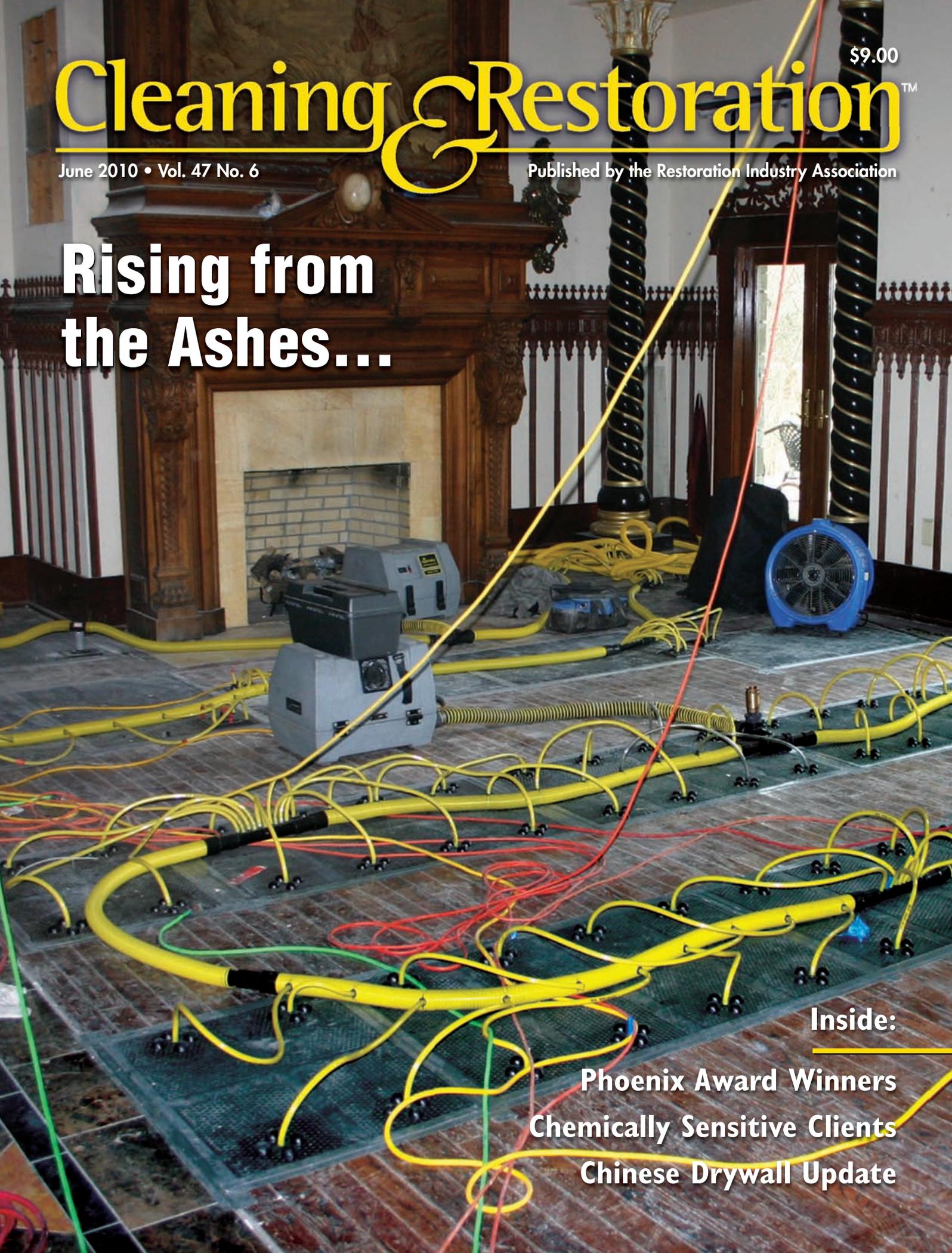
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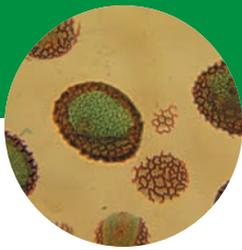
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Rising from the Ashes...



Inside:

**Phoenix Award Winners
Chemically Sensitive Clients
Chinese Drywall Update**



By Michael A. Pinto, CSP, CMP

The Internet and the Environmental Information Age – Part 2

Editor's Note: This is part 2 of a two-part series. Part 1 appeared in the May 2010 issue.

Last month I introduced you to some of my favorite information sources on the World Wide Web where you can check facts and get additional data on key issues and government regulations. This article continues that discussion and addresses sites for cleaning for health, asbestos and general environmental information.

Cleaning For a Healthy Environment

<http://www.buildingbiology.net> and http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Building_biology

The first website is for the Institute of Bau-Biology and Ecology, an educational organization that brings together educational and technical resources to help people build healthy homes and work environments. The second link provides reliable information that can be useful for explaining the concept to a layperson.

<http://epa.gov/oppad001/chemregindex.htm>

Another EPA site. This one provides a list of EPA-registered products effective against *Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA).

<http://www.idph.state.il.us/health/infect/schoolstaphrecs.htm>

A website hosted by the State of Illinois Department of Health. One especially good document is the booklet entitled *Recommendations for the Prevention of Staphylococcal Infections for Schools*.

<http://www.cdc.gov/od/oc/media/pressrel/fs021025>

The primary Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website where you can track the progression of epidemics such as the swine flu (H1N1).

<http://www.APIC.org>

The official website of the Association of Professionals for Infection Control. They have a lot of great resources for cleaning and restoration contractors who work in hospitals or other medical facilities. Their infection control toolbox kit is worth the money.

<http://www.jcrinc.com>

The Joint Commission is a voluntary organization that “grades” medical facilities. Since their ratings are often used by regulatory agencies to renew licenses, their standards and recommendations are critical reading for restoration professionals working in medical facilities.

<http://www.naima.org>

The North American Insulation Manufacturers Association (NAIMA) has good recommendations for cleaning

fiberglass-lined HVAC systems.

Asbestos

http://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_id=10862&p_table=STANDARDS



This OSHA website takes you to the asbestos standard for the Construction Industry (titled 29 CFR 1926.1101). Restoration contractors should familiarize themselves with these requirements as they come into play when asbestos can or will be disturbed.

http://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_table=STANDARDS&p_id=9995

Similar to the previous website, this one takes you to the OSHA Asbestos Standard for General Industry (titled 29 CFR 1910.1101). There are actually quite a few differences in the regulations for workers who are addressing asbestos in their own facilities rather than disturbing it in someone else's building.

<http://www.osha.gov/dts/osta/oshasoft/asbestos/index.html>

The asbestos standards are so complex that OSHA has a special website called the *Asbestos Advisor*, with an interactive compliance assistance tool. Once installed on your PC, it can interview you about

buildings and worksites, and the kinds of tasks workers perform there. It will produce guidance on how the asbestos standard may apply to those buildings and that work, depending on your answers. It can also provide general guidance and may be focused on a particular project, and it provides pop-up definitions through “hypertext.”

<http://www.epa.gov/asbestos/pubs/asbreg.html>

No sense having all the asbestos rules and regulations handled by one agency when you can scatter them around and make it more difficult for contractor compliance. This website provides the link to the EPA asbestos page which contains the asbestos laws and regulations enforced by the EPA.

<http://www.epa.gov/asbestos/pubs/40cfr61subpartm.pdf>

Another EPA asbestos website specifically targeted to their main rule, the National Environmental Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP). These rules principally cover demolition, renovation and waste issues.

<http://www.epa.gov/asbestos/pubs/regioncontact.html>

When websites don't work it is always nice to speak with someone. This site provides EPA regional and state contacts for asbestos and many other needs.

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/asbestos/hiddenkiller/index.htm>

The United Kingdom has a very active environmental safety and health program known as the Health Safety Executive (HSE), which is the equivalent of OSHA. The HSE has launched a massive public relations program on asbestos. The web page is great for the “working man,” since it is very easy to navigate. They have some great quizzes to test your knowledge.

Miscellaneous

<http://www.osha.gov/SLTC/respiratorprotection/index.html>

A website specifically targeted to the ins and outs of OSHA's Respiratory Protection regulations. Not only does it provide the actual respiratory protection standard, it offers many other links to useful documents.

<http://www.epa.gov/mercury/>

The EPA's main mercury page provides a broad range of information: actions by EPA and others, including international actions; effects on people and the environment; and how to protect you and your family.

<http://www.epa.gov/mercury/spills/index.htm>

This site from the EPA is more specific on helping people deal with spills, site clean up and disposal, particularly from fluorescent lamps and liquid mercury from thermometers, thermostats, and the like.

<http://www.osha.gov/SLTC/mercury/index.html>

OSHA's main mercury page. Of course, if the EPA is going to regulate something, OSHA has to get in on the fun too.

<http://www.epa.gov/epawaste/hazard/tsd/pcbs/index.htm>

Another contaminant that restoration contractors are sometimes asked to address is Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs). This is the EPA's main page for PCB information and it contains further links to a number of good publications. This site explains the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) and the PCB regulations found at 40 CFR 761. It focuses on the management, cleanup and disposal of PCB waste and the management of PCB-containing materials and equipment still in use.

<http://npic.orst.edu>

A website run by the National Pesticide Information Center which provides dandy information on a number of regularly used products that are actually pretty nasty.

<http://www.epa.gov/iaq/> and
<http://www.epa.gov/iaq/pubs/> and
<http://www.epa.gov/iaq/schools/>

These links take you to the EPA's main website for indoor air quality (IAQ) issues, as well as their main portal for ordering IAQ related publications and their special indoor air quality resources for schools.

The *Agency's Tools for Schools* program, and *Healthy Home Initiative*, are both excellent resources for anybody facing indoor air quality problems.

<http://www.esporta.ca/>

The Canadians have too many cool things related to the cleaning and restoration industry for us to ignore. One of the ones that I am most excited about is the Esporta System. This equipment and system is revolutionizing the cleaning of soft contents after fires, floods, and other natural and man-made disasters. It is worth a look for any restoration or cleaning contractor who wants to see the future of our industry.

<http://www.msdssearch.com/>

A great way to end this series is with this website that is a database for all of the different chemicals utilized in our businesses. The National MSDS Repository gives you access to material safety data sheets for thousands of products. It is a real timesaver when trying to update your OSHA hazard communication program and paperwork. ■

Michael A. Pinto, CSP, CMP, currently serves as chief executive officer of Wonder Makers Environmental, Inc. Pinto has authored three books including Fungal Contamination: A Comprehensive Guide for Remediation, over 130 technical articles, as well as 18 commercial training programs. He is the winner of the 2010 Martin L. King Award for outstanding service to the restoration industry and can be reached at map@wondermakers.com.

Author's Note: *A great shout out to my friend Tom Laubenthal who provided me with some of his favorite links and inspired me to put this article together for all of my colleagues and friends in the restoration industry. If you ever want to talk to a true environmental expert, and a naturally hilarious guy, Tom is your man.*