

# PRACTICAL KNOWLEDGE AND ASSESSMENT LIMITATIONS



Healthy Housing Solutions<sup>INC</sup>

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## SHARING CLIENT INFORMATION

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understanding HIPAA Issues (What's HIPAA?)</li> <li>• Health Information Portability &amp; Accountability Act, 1996</li> <li>• Most, but not all, government agencies are HIPAA covered entities.</li> <li>• Clients should sign a HIPAA Permission form for sharing information.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If your organization is a "HIPAA-covered entity" and uses contractors or sub-grantees, you should require a written HIPAA agreement with them to view/access health and personal information.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• if they don't, they can freely share any information you provided and you are liable.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• You can not publish health or personal data on-line for all to see.</li> </ul>
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www.healthyhousinginstitute.com/hip

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## WHEN YOU ARRIVE AT A HOME

**Visit with the Homeowner**

- Consider a walk-through as part of the interview or afterwards to promote discussion

**Discuss the purpose of the Home assessment**

**Discuss the scope of what will take place**

- Walk-through and what areas of the home will be observed
- What kind of information will be collected
- Use of photos and videos
- Collect environmental measurements
- Collect environmental samples
- Keeping notes of assessment issues

**Document permission to assess and collect information**

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### What do you do when you see these?



Photos courtesy of the Center for Environmental Health, Children's Mercy Hospital, © 2010.

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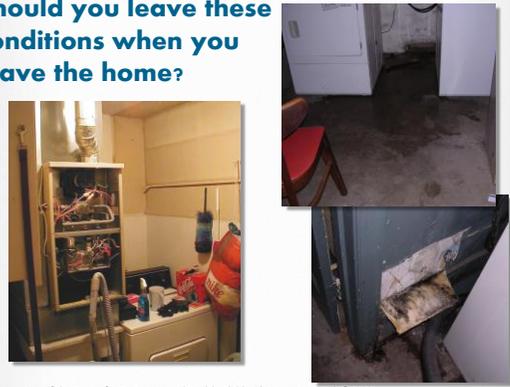
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### Should you leave these conditions when you leave the home?



Photos courtesy of the Center for Environmental Health, Children's Mercy Hospital, © 2010.

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### Notice of Hazardous Condition

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**Notice of Potentially Hazardous Condition**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ 1497/EDHA ID#: \_\_\_\_\_

Dear Environmental Health Assessment Participant,

This letter is to notify you that during this Environmental Health Assessment we have identified the following hazardous condition(s):

\_\_\_\_\_

In the following location(s) within your home:

\_\_\_\_\_

We ask that you sign below to acknowledge that you have been notified of the potentially hazardous condition that exists.

Signature of Responsible Party \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Environmental Health Specialist \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

You will be given a copy of this notice and we will retain a copy in our files. A copy of this signed form will be provided to the \_\_\_\_\_ the organization coordinating the Healthy Home Program in your area. The property owner is then responsible for taking the appropriate steps to reduce or eliminate the hazard.

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### Air Quality Index (AQI) for PM – 2.5

Color	Air Quality Rating	1-Hr. Avg. (ug/m <sup>3</sup> )	24-Hr. Avg. (ug/m <sup>3</sup> )	Action to take
Green	Good	0 - 19.9	0 - 15.4	No health impacts expected.
Yellow	Moderate	20 - 59.9	15.5 - 40.4	Unusually sensitive (e.g., asthma) should limit prolonged outdoor activity.
Orange	Unhealthy for sensitive	60 - 99.9	40.5 - 65.4	People with respiratory disease along with active children and adults should limit prolonged outdoor exertion.
Red	Unhealthy	100 - 249.9	65.5 - 150.4	Everyone should limit prolonged outdoor exertion.
Purple	Very Unhealthy	250 - 499.9	150.5 - 250.4	People with respiratory disease should avoid all outdoor exertion and limit exposure by staying indoors.
Maroon	Hazardous	500+	250.5+	Everyone should avoid any outdoor exertion.

EPA 2012: <http://www.airnow.gov/index.cfm?action=aqibasics.aqi>

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### N-95 Respirator-Minimum protection if high concentrations of unknown particles are observed

Dust, mold, or smoke – each is made up of particles. The first line of defense for protection from particles is a NIOSH approved N-95 rated respirator.

Particle respirators do not provide any protection from carbon monoxide or other toxic gases!

Respirators are only a part of personal protective equipment (PPE).

*Note- this discussion is about professionals who go into people's homes. Occupation-related personal protective equipment (PPE) is covered by OSHA with specific regulations regarding medical monitoring and guidance on worker protection.*

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### All Masks are Not the Same

**Nuisance dust masks do not provide the necessary minimum level of protection.**

They do not fit tightly enough (usually just a single strap) and lack sufficient particle capture efficiency.

**Surgical masks (unless at least N-95) also are not appropriate.**

They are designed to prevent the spread of particles from the wearer, not to protect the wearer from particles in the air.

*Note- this discussion is about professionals who go into people's homes. Occupation-related personal protective equipment (PPE) is covered by OSHA with specific regulations regarding medical monitoring and guidance on worker protection.*

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### Respirators must be worn properly!

- Top strap goes high on the back of the head. Bottom strap around back of neck.
- Using **two hands**, mold the nose piece to the shape of your nose. Pinching with one hand usually will not work well enough to make a good seal.
- Positive pressure **fit check**. Cover the respirator with both hands and exhale. If air leaks around nose, adjust nose piece. If air leaks around edge, adjust straps by pulling back along head.
- Negative pressure **fit check**. Cover the respirator with both hands and inhale sharply. If necessary, adjust fit as described above.



Photos courtesy of Curtis Reddington, © 2012.

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### ASSESSOR HAZARDS & PRECAUTIONS

#### Be aware of

- Significant structural defects and physical hazards
- Improperly stored and uncharacterized chemicals and pesticides
- Visible and significant biological Contamination
- Fire and improperly stored combustible materials

**Can you ask for a hazard to be removed?**

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### HOME-RELATED "CONFINED SPACES"

Areas of homes that have limited or restricted means for entry or exit, and are not designed for continuous occupancy.

#### Confined spaces in homes might include:

- Small outside storage buildings, old cisterns, small crawlspaces,
- Small unvented basement rooms
- Storm Shelters
- Attic spaces
- Small rooms with no ventilation
- Closets



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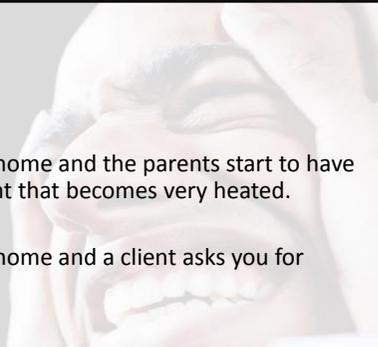
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### WHAT IF?

- You're in a home and the parents start to have an argument that becomes very heated.
- You're in a home and a client asks you for money.



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### WHAT ISSUES HAVE YOU SEEN?



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