

## GUZI-WEST INSPECTION & CONSULTING NEWSLETTER | Q2 2024

### GUZI-WEST PARTNERSHIPS

We work with you!

- RESTORATION COMPANIES
- DISASTER CLEAN-UP COMPANIES
- HVAC INSTALLERS
- FLOORING CONTRACTORS
- INSULATION CONTRACTORS
- ROOFING CONTRACTORS
- CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTORS
- SCHOOL DISTRICTS
- CONSULTING FIRMS
- ARCHITECTS
- ENGINEERS
- REAL ESTATE AGENTS
- STATE AND FEDERAL AGENCIES

AND MORE!

Greetings from Guzi-West Inspection and Consulting! We are thrilled to present our second quarterly newsletter of the year.

We are pleased to announce that Maceo Rizzo, an experienced project manager, has rejoined the Guzi-West team, bringing new asbestos and lead certifications for Arizona. Additionally, Shaun Federmeyer, a valued member of our team, has recently earned certifications as a California Site Surveillance Technician (CSST) and Lead Inspector/Assessor. Our certified staff coverage now extends across California, Oregon, Nevada, and Arizona.

In this edition, we highlight the EPA's groundbreaking decision to permanently ban asbestos, marking a significant advancement in public health and safety. We also examine a recent asbestos safety violation case in Washington that resulted in an \$800,000 fine, emphasizing the critical importance of prioritizing health and safety protocols.

Moreover, we are now equipped to conduct Category 3 water damage (black water) and Escherichia coli (E. coli) surveys and consulting. Category 3 water damage involves highly contaminated water that may contain harmful bacteria and pathogens, posing serious health risks. For more information on these services, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Finally, enjoy an exclusive glimpse into our on-site activities with "Guzi-West in the Field."

We trust this newsletter will offer valuable insights and information for you, our esteemed readers. Thank you for accompanying us on this journey as we explore the latest developments in environmental inspection and consulting. Your dedication is deeply appreciated, and we eagerly anticipate staying connected with you in the months ahead!

Warm regards,

Clay Guzi  
President/CEO  
Guzi-West Inspection and Consulting, LLC



**Guzi-West Inspection & Consulting**

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# EPA Bans Chrysotile Asbestos in United States

In a groundbreaking move on March 18, 2024, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced the final rule that prohibits ongoing uses of chrysotile asbestos. This significant move aims to eliminate the health risks associated with asbestos exposure, which is known to cause serious illnesses, including lung cancer, mesothelioma, and asbestosis. Prior to the more comprehensive ban efforts in the late 1980s, the EPA began to take steps to control and limit asbestos use. This included the publication of regulatory measures aimed at reducing asbestos exposure in various industries. In 1989, the EPA issued the Asbestos Ban and Phase-Out Rule under the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA), which aimed to ban most asbestos-containing products. With this new ban, the Biden-Harris Administration successfully eliminated the use of chrysotile asbestos within construction materials and other materials that are known to contain asbestos.

As stated above, industries that have traditionally relied on asbestos will need to transition to safer alternatives. This may involve changes in manufacturing processes and materials. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will oversee the enforcement of this ban. Companies will be required to cease the use of asbestos in their products and processes, and alternatives will need to be adopted. In addition, companies will need to ensure they comply with the new regulations, which may involve audits, product testing, and reporting to the EPA.

According to the ban, the final rule also:

- Bans most sheet gaskets that contain asbestos two years after the effective date of the final rule, with five-year phase-outs for sheet gaskets to be used to produce titanium dioxide and for the processing of nuclear material. *(Biden-Harris Administration finalizes ban on ongoing uses of asbestos to protect people from cancer)*
- Allows asbestos-containing sheet gaskets to continue to be used through CY 2037 at the Department of Energy's Savannah River Site to ensure that the safe disposal of nuclear materials can continue on schedule while continuing to protect workers from exposure to radioactive materials. *(Biden-Harris Administration finalizes ban on ongoing uses of asbestos to protect people from cancer)*
- Bans the use of asbestos in oilfield brake blocks, aftermarket automotive brakes and linings, other vehicle friction products, and other gaskets six months after the effective date of the final rule. *(Biden-Harris Administration finalizes ban on ongoing uses of asbestos to protect people from cancer)*

EPA will release part 2 of the draft risk evaluation soon and will publish the final risk evaluation by Dec. 1, 2024. For a more in depth understanding of the new ruling, readers can view the full ruling by following the link provided: <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/biden-harris-administration-finalizes-ban-ongoing-uses-asbestos-protect-people-cancer>.

This ban represents a significant step forward in safeguarding public health and protecting the environment from one of the most dangerous known carcinogens.

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## Asbestos Removal Company Fined \$800,000 for Safety Violations in Washington

In March 2024, the Washington Department of Labor & Industries (L&I) dealt a significant blow to Seattle Asbestos of Washington—a prominent player in our industry—by imposing fines nearing \$800,000. This penalty stemmed from egregious safety violations observed across multiple job sites in Western Washington.

L&I's inspections uncovered a staggering 35 willful health and safety violations, underscoring a severe lapse in adherence to asbestos removal protocols. At the heart of these infractions were issues that posed direct risks to both workers and homeowners. In one instance, inspectors found plastic barriers riddled with large holes meant to contain airborne asbestos—a critical oversight that compromised containment efforts. At another site, workers were observed exiting without proper personal protective equipment (PPE) or utilizing mandated decontamination procedures, such as onsite showers.

Moreover, malfunctioning air cleaning equipment, uncovered household items, and improperly stored debris further highlighted a disregard for basic safety measures. Such oversights not only endanger the health of those involved but also contravene established regulations aimed at safeguarding public health.

In response to these serious breaches, L&I took decisive action by halting all work at the affected sites until remedial measures were implemented. Furthermore, the agency has initiated steps to revoke Seattle Asbestos' certification for asbestos work in Washington—an enforcement measure intended to compel strict compliance with safety standards.

This incident serves as a stark reminder of the non-negotiable importance of adhering rigorously to asbestos removal laws and regulations. As professionals in this field, it is incumbent upon us to prioritize safety above all else. Neglecting safety protocols not only jeopardizes lives but also undermines the trust and integrity of our industry.

For a detailed account of the case and ongoing developments, please visit [L&I's official statement](#). Let us all learn from this unfortunate incident and recommit ourselves to upholding the highest standards of safety and professionalism in asbestos removal.

### SERVICES IN

- SHASTA COUNTY
- TEHAMA COUNTY
- BUTTE COUNTY
- SISKIYOU COUNTY
- HUMBOLDT COUNTY
- DEL NORTE COUNTY
- COLUSA COUNTY
- GLENN COUNTY
- MODOC COUNTY
- LASSEN COUNTY
- TRINITY COUNTY
- YOLO COUNTY
- PLUMAS COUNTY
- YUBA COUNTY
- SUTTER COUNTY
- MENDOCINO COUNTY
- LAKE COUNTY
- OREGON
- NEVADA
- ARIZONA AND MORE!

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# Ensuring Safety and Quality: The Case for Clearance Testing in Category 3 Water Losses

In the realm of restoration following Category 3 water losses, the stakes couldn't be higher. These situations, involving water contaminated with pathogens, pose significant health risks and demand stringent measures to ensure safety and quality in the restoration process. Amidst these challenges, clearance testing emerges as a crucial step that restoration companies should embrace without compromise.

Clearance testing serves as the final assurance that a site is safe for reoccupation following remediation efforts. In Category 3 water losses, which involve highly contaminated water sources like sewage or floodwaters, the potential for microbial growth and the spread of pathogens such as E. Coli is particularly concerning. Effective clearance testing not only verifies the success of cleaning and remediation but also identifies any lingering hazards that could jeopardize health or property.

At Guzi-West, we recognize the urgency inherent in Category 3 water losses. Our rush clearance testing services are tailored to expedite the process without compromising thoroughness. One of the critical components of our rush clearance testing is the comprehensive assessment for E. Coli contamination. This bacterium, commonly found in sewage and fecal matter, serves as an indicator of the potential presence of other harmful pathogens. By including E. Coli testing in our rush clearance services, we ensure that all necessary precautions are taken to safeguard the health of occupants and the integrity of the restored environment.

Choosing Guzi-West Inspection and Consulting for clearance testing means opting for precision, reliability, and efficiency. Our team of experienced professionals utilizes state-of-the-art equipment and follows industry best practices to deliver accurate results promptly. We understand the regulatory requirements and health implications associated with Category 3 water losses, making us a trusted partner in your restoration efforts.

In conclusion, clearance testing is not just a recommended step but an essential safeguard in the aftermath of Category 3 water losses. At Guzi-West, we are committed to elevating the standards of restoration through our specialized rush clearance testing services, including thorough E. Coli testing. By prioritizing safety and quality, we ensure that every restoration project concludes with confidence and peace of mind.

For more information on how our clearance testing services can support your restoration endeavors, contact us today. Together, let's ensure that every environment is restored to a safe and habitable condition, free from the lingering risks of Category 3 water losses.

## WE OFFER A VARIETY OF CLEARANCE TESTING OPTIONS INCLUDING

- ASBESTOS PCM AND TEM CLEARANCES
- LEAD VISUAL, WIPE, AND SOIL CLEARANCES
- MOLD CLEARANCES
- METHAMPHETAMINE CLEARANCES
- SILICA CLEARANCES
- SEWAGE/BACTERIA CLEARANCES
- MARIJUANA GROW CLEARANCES
- PESTICIDE CLEARANCES
- SMOKE DAMAGE CLEARANCES

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# GUZI-WEST IN THE FIELD

Guzi-West certified personnel conducted a hazardous material survey at the Veteran's Hall in Weaverville, CA. The survey aim was to determine the presence or absence of hazardous materials, as part of project plans for renovating the structure.



Guzi-West crew surveyed three structures set to be renovated in Chico. We won't ruin the surprise, but our local staff is excited to see the transition of these structures into something the entire community can enjoy!



Guzi-West is growing! We are excited to announce that we now have certified staff that can conduct asbestos and lead surveys not only in California, but also in Oregon, Nevada and Arizona!

