

GUZI-WEST INSPECTION & CONSULTING NEWSLETTER | Q3 2024

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Greetings from Guzi-West Inspection and Consulting!

We are thrilled to present our third quarterly newsletter of the year, full of exciting updates and valuable insights.

First, we are proud to announce that two of our team members, Evan Cardinaux and Jeff Hunter, have recently earned certification as California Asbestos Consultants (CAC). Their expertise will help us continue to deliver top-tier environmental inspection and consulting services.

In this edition, we explore the importance of smoke damage assessments following wildfires. Wildfires leave behind more than just visible destruction—residues like soot, char, and ash can pose significant health risks. At Guzi-West, we use advanced technology and thorough sampling methods to assess the extent of smoke damage and recommend effective remediation strategies to protect both property and health. We also delve into the need for hazardous material surveys before renovating or demolishing tennis courts. Many older courts contain hazardous substances like asbestos, lead, and silica. Proper testing helps identify these materials before they become a risk during renovation, ensuring worker and environmental safety. Guzi-West specializes in conducting these surveys, preventing delays and compliance issues. Additionally, we cover concrete moisture testing, a critical step in avoiding issues like flooring damage, mold growth, and structural problems. Guzi-West follows ASTM F2170 standards to assess moisture levels in concrete slabs, ensuring that flooring and coatings are installed under the right conditions.

Last, we hope you enjoy an exclusive glimpse into our daily activities with "Guzi-West in the Field." Thank you for continuing to trust us with your environmental consulting needs, and we look forward to 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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The Importance of Smoke Damage Assessments After Wildfires

As wildfires increasingly threaten communities across the United States, the need for thorough smoke damage assessments has never been more critical. At Guzi-West Inspection and Consulting, we understand that the aftermath of a wildfire goes beyond the visible destruction of flames—it leaves behind harmful residues that can pose serious health and safety risks. Conducting a smoke damage assessment is a vital step in determining the full extent of the damage and ensuring appropriate remediation measures are implemented to protect both property and health.

Understanding Smoke Damage

Wildfire smoke can contain dangerous particles, including soot, char, and ash. These residues settle on surfaces, but their most significant threat comes from the fine particulate matter they contain, which can be harmful when inhaled. These microscopic particles can penetrate deep into the lungs, aggravating respiratory issues and leading to serious health complications, particularly for vulnerable populations such as children, the elderly, and those with pre-existing respiratory conditions. Exposure to fine particulate matter has been linked to worsening asthma, chronic respiratory diseases, and even cardiovascular issues. It's essential to assess smoke damage to identify these hidden dangers and address them properly.



Our Smoke Damage Assessment Process

At Guzi-West, we take a comprehensive approach to smoke damage assessment, ensuring that no detail is overlooked. Our process typically includes the following steps:

1. Initial Site Inspection: We begin by evaluating your property's proximity to smoke events using Geographic Information Systems (GIS) technology, followed by a visual inspection to pinpoint potentially affected areas.
2. Sampling: Working closely with you, we develop a customized sampling plan. This may involve collecting dust using tape lifts, wipes, swabs, and/or Micro-Vac sampling cassettes. We can also collect bulk material samples, such as insulation and carpets, for detailed laboratory analysis.
3. Laboratory Analysis: The collected samples are sent to accredited labs to confirm the presence and concentration of char, ash, and opaque particles. This data helps us determine the severity of the smoke damage.
4. Reporting & Recommendations: Once the laboratory results are in, we provide a comprehensive report that outlines our findings and offers actionable recommendations for remediation and restoration.

Why It Matters

Properly assessing smoke damage is essential not only for restoring property but also for safeguarding the health of those affected by wildfire smoke. Whether you are a property owner, insurance adjuster, or restoration professional, Guzi-West Inspection and Consulting is here to provide the data and insights necessary to ensure safe and effective restoration. If you suspect that your home or community has been affected by wildfire smoke, don't wait. A thorough smoke damage assessment is the first step in identifying potential hazards and taking the necessary measures to protect your health and restore your property.

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The Importance of Surveying Tennis Courts for Hazardous Materials Before Renovation or Demolition

At Guzi-West, we understand that many renovation or demolition projects overlook the hidden dangers of hazardous materials in outdoor sports facilities, particularly tennis courts. If your project involves updating or tearing down a court, it's essential to assess for harmful substances such as asbestos, lead, heavy metals like chromium, and even silica. Failing to identify these risks can lead to costly delays and compliance issues.

Tennis courts constructed in previous decades often used materials now considered hazardous. Asbestos, for example, was widely used in construction due to its heat resistance and durability. It can be found mixed in with court surfaces. Lead, commonly found in older paints and coatings on courts, becomes a concern when disturbed, as it can turn into airborne dust. Additionally, heavy metals like chromium, which may be present in synthetic or rubberized court surfaces, can pose significant health and environmental risks when released during renovation or demolition.

Silica, particularly in its crystalline form, is another potential hazard. Often found in sand-based surfaces or construction materials, silica dust can be released during demolition or resurfacing activities. Inhalation of this fine dust is associated with respiratory conditions like silicosis, making it important to address this hazard prior to starting work.

Identifying hazardous materials early in the project allows for the implementation of effective safety measures. Once the materials are identified, appropriate remediation methods, such as containment or removal, can be used to control exposure. This prevents the spread of contaminants, such as asbestos fibers becoming airborne or heavy metals leaching into the soil or groundwater, protecting both workers and the environment.

At Guzi-West, we specialize in hazardous materials surveys, offering detailed testing to identify asbestos, lead, chromium, silica, and other substances that may be present in your project. Contact us today to schedule a professional assessment and ensure the safety and success of your next project.

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- HUMBOLDT COUNTY
- DEL NORTE COUNTY
- COLUSA COUNTY
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The Importance of Testing Concrete for Moisture: How Guzi-West Ensures Compliance with ASTM F2170

When planning to install flooring or coatings over a concrete slab, one of the most critical steps is testing for moisture. Too often, excess moisture in the concrete can lead to serious issues like damaged flooring, mold growth, and even structural problems. At Guzi-West, we are equipped to conduct thorough moisture testing, following the industry standard ASTM F2170, to ensure your project is safe and durable for years to come.

Why Does Concrete Moisture Matter?

Even after concrete appears dry, moisture can remain trapped inside the slab. This moisture can eventually rise to the surface, damaging materials like wood, vinyl, or carpet, which rely on adhesives to stay in place. If the moisture content is too high, adhesives can fail, causing flooring to lift or buckle. Worse yet, moisture issues can lead to mold, which can affect indoor air quality and pose health risks to building occupants.

Knowing the moisture level in concrete before installation is crucial to avoid these problems. It ensures that flooring materials are applied under the right conditions, saving time and money on future repairs.

How Guzi-West Can Help

At Guzi-West, we use advanced techniques to measure the moisture content inside concrete slabs, following ASTM F2170. This standard involves using in situ probes to assess the relative humidity deep within the slab, providing a more accurate picture of moisture levels than surface tests. This method helps ensure that any moisture below the surface won't cause future issues after the flooring or coating is installed.

We follow a straightforward process: we drill into the concrete to place specialized probes that measure the moisture in real time. Our team ensures that the testing conditions are controlled to deliver precise and reliable results. Once the testing is complete, we'll provide clear recommendations on whether it's safe to proceed with flooring installation or if further steps are needed.

By partnering with Guzi-West, you can feel confident that your flooring installation will stand the test of time, free from moisture-related problems. Whether you're managing a commercial build or a residential renovation, we'll help you get it right the first time. Protect your investment by ensuring that your concrete is moisture-safe with Guzi-West's professional testing services!

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 of an old train yard this fall. The surveys aim was to determine the presence or absence of hazardous materials, prior to removal and relocation of the train cars.



During the summer months the Guzi-West crew have been busy conducting AHERA 3-year re-inspections for many of our Northern California school districts. We love keeping our districts in compliance with US EPA Asbestos Laws and Regulations.



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!

