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October 2017



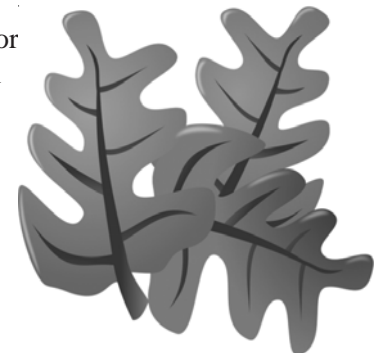
Where does it Fall?

Water damage to your home or building is something that everyone hopes they never have to experience. If you have gone through the process, I am willing to bet that at the beginning of the project the Remediation Contractor asked you what the source of the water is. This little piece of information is vital for the Remediation Contractor to develop a plan on how to properly mitigate the damage. Water damage is separated into three categories. Category 1 is clean water such as water from a faucet or supply line. Category 2 is grey water, this can be water that may have leaked out of a washing machine or dishwasher. Category 3 is black water, in which flood water and sewage are the most common examples. The IICRC S500 outlines the procedures on how to mitigate each category of water damage.

In regards to wind-driven rain there seems to be some legitimate confusion as to what category to classify the resulting damage. The IICRC S500 defines Category 1 water as: water that originates from a sanitary water source and does not pose substantial risk from dermal, ingestion, or inhalation exposure. They list falling rain water as an example of Category 1 water. They go on to say that Category 3 water is “grossly” contaminated and can contain pathogenic, toxigenic, or other harmful agents. They list wind-driven rain from hurricanes, tropical storms, or other weather related events as an example. If we take a stroll down memory lane you probably remember learning about the water cycle and that rainwater associated with tropical storms or hurricanes is predominantly evaporated water from a variety of sources. 90 percent comes from lakes, rivers and oceans and the other 10 percent comes from plant transpiration (moisture evaporation from plants and trees). During hurricanes or tropical storms, the majority of water falling from the sky comes from clouds that can be miles above the Earth’s surface. Initially, falling rainwater can cleanse the air of fine, airborne pollen and dust particles. Contaminates rendered airborne by wind remain relatively close to the ground, depending on particle mass and wet moisture absorption (this is the same logic behind “adequate wetting” mandated when removing friable asbestos particles during asbestos abatement). As ground soil, dust, and debris become wet from rain they “coagulate” and increase in weight, therefore they are not easily aerosolized and when they do become airborne they settle out of the air quickly.

As stated earlier, evaporated water (rainwater) from the sea or other inland bodies of water is Category 1. When it flows (floods) across the ground and picks up soil bacteria, insects, fungi, etc. it quickly becomes Category 3 water because pathogenic content is the determining factor. Those who would define wind-driven rain as Category 3 water typically fail to quote the complete definition stated in the IICRC S500 (listed above). The statement regarding wind-driven rain specifies “...contaminated water...such as wind-driven rain from hurricanes, tropical storms, or other weather related event.” In other words, the “wind-driven rain” had to be contaminated, actually grossly contaminated and can contain pathogenic, toxigenic, or other harmful agents. In order to be considered Category 3 water. Therefore, wind-driven rain that is not already significantly contaminated would not qualify as Category 3 water.

It seems pretty obvious, even to a casual observer, that not all wind-driven rain from hurricanes or tropical storms is “grossly contaminated and can contain pathogenic, toxigenic, or other harmful agents” that “can cause significant adverse reactions to humans if contacted or consumed”. People live, work and are contacted routinely by wind-driven rain during storms. In many coastal areas, wind-driven rain occurs on a daily basis during the spring and fall seasons. Furthermore, one can watch any weather channel to see meteorologists and reporters standing in wind-driven rain, breathing, ingesting, and otherwise becoming thoroughly soaked, to understand the nature and “category” of that water. Until next time my friends, be prepared and stay safe.



October 2017

Events

- October 3: SAMA Luncheon
- October 4: IFMA Luncheon
- October 5: ACA Luncheon
- October 5-7: TASA TASB Convention
- October 10: SACA Luncheon
- October 11: AAFAME Luncheon
- October 12: IREM Luncheon
- October 13: SA BOMA Clay Shoot
- October 18: IIASA Golf
- October 19: Austin BOMA
- October 19: SAABE Luncheon
- October 26: IWSA Luncheon
- October 27-28: FIWT 2017 Convention

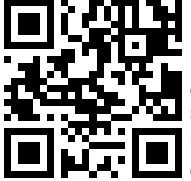
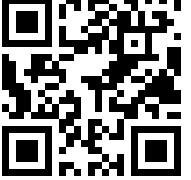
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

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