

# FUTURE FOCUS

*Future Environment Designs, Inc.*

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*Think wrongly if you please, but in all cases, think for yourself.*

~ **Charles Seymour**

**References:**

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/mrsa/>  
[https://www.choate.edu/data/files/News/ParentsPortalNews/A\\_Sometimes\\_Deadly\\_Scourge.pdf](https://www.choate.edu/data/files/News/ParentsPortalNews/A_Sometimes_Deadly_Scourge.pdf)

**Special points of interest:**

- We accept MasterCard, Visa, and American Express credit cards.
- Call us at (800) 969-3888 for your Safety Equipment & Supply needs.
- Our new location is 6800 Jericho Turnpike, Suite 120W, Syosset, New York 11791.
- Visit our website at [www.futureenv.com](http://www.futureenv.com)

## MRSA Hysteria Hits Facilities - What is MRSA?

Welcome to the Fall 2007 edition of Future Focus. We are fast approaching Thanksgiving, the Winter Holidays and the New Year. We hope all of you have had a great 2007 and wish everyone a fantastic 2008. Future Environment Designs will become a 20-year old company in 2008. We would like to thank all of you for helping us to achieve this fantastic milestone and we look forward to seeing all of you in the New Year.

MRSA was in the news recently, causing concerns for parents and some health officials. In addition, MRSA has brought out the usual hysteria feeders (fads?). Some of my clients have gotten the phone calls, emails, or mailings saying “Use (fill in the blank) and solve your MRSA problem” or parents pressuring facilities to do something to ensure their kids do not get MRSA. Like most new concerns, a quick reaction or panicking will only lead to expensive responses that don’t necessarily fix or address the problem.

First let us understand what MRSA is? MRSA stands for methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*. *Staphylococcus aureus* (or sometimes called Staph) is a bacteria that is resistant to methicillin (which is a first line antibiotic). Staph is a

common bacteria colonizing 20-40% of the population (meaning that the bacteria is present, but not causing disease) and it has been around since the 1960’s. Approximately 1% of the population is colonized with MRSA. Staph or MRSA are commonly found on the skin or in the nose of healthy people. Staph bacteria is

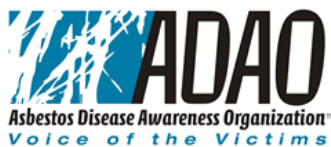


**By Angelo Garcia, III  
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the most common cause of skin infections in the U.S. A 2003 study suggests that 12% of MRSA infections are community based. A community-associated Staph or MRSA infection can be acquired by a person that has not been hospitalized or had a medical procedure within the past year. Otherwise, Staph or MRSA infections are associated with hospitals and healthcare facilities, among people with weakened immune systems. Staph or MRSA is transmitted by direct skin-to-skin contact (enters the body through cuts or abrasions in the skin) or

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2007 Training Sponsors:



# FUTURE ENVIRONMENT DESIGNS PROJECT NEWS

## MOISTURE AND MOLD ASSESSMENT - CO-OP APARTMENT NEW YORK CITY

Future Environment Designs performed a moisture damage assessment of a co-op apartment in New York City for the facility manager. The assessment found some old water damage in the basement from previous water leaks that needed repair, but since this area did not impact the tenant/occupant's living space it probably did not affect them. However, mold growth (confirmed by sampling) in the air conditioner in the tenant/occupant's bedroom was the probable cause of the concerns and complaints.

## OSHA ASBESTOS CLASS IV TRAINING-PLATTSBURGH

Future Environment Designs performed asbestos training for a University in Plattsburgh in compliance with OSHA Class IV requirements for workers who may contact asbestos but not disturb asbestos. The purpose of this training is to comply with OSHA requirements under the 1910.1001 & 1926.1101 regulations.

## OSHA ASBESTOS CLASS III & CLASS IV TRAINING-BROOKVILLE

Future Environment Designs performed asbestos training for a College in Brookville in compliance with OSHA Class III requirements for workers who potentially disturb asbestos and Class IV requirements for workers who may contact asbestos but not disturb asbestos. The purpose of this training is to comply with OSHA requirements under the 1910.1001 & 1926.1101 regulations.

## Reminders

We've moved to 6800 Jericho Turnpike, Suite 120W, Syosset, New York. Training classes being held in Syosset are located at this address unless otherwise noted in our schedule.

Visit our website at [www.futureenv.com](http://www.futureenv.com) our training calendar for 2007 is online. Our blog is at <http://futureenv.blogspot.com> or you can link to the blog under Angelo Garcia, III's picture.

Train online and take 5% off the course by entering the following code at checkout: NEWS06

## What is MRSA?

*(Continued from page 1)*

contact with shared items or surfaces that have come into contact with someone else's infection (e.g. towels, used bandages, sports equipment or personal protective equipment (PPE)). To prevent Staph or MRSA infections or the spread of these infections facilities should:

- Ensure the availability of adequate facilities & supplies that encourage workers to practice good hygiene.
- Cleaning hands thoroughly with soap and water or as a secondary method, when water is unavailable, use alcohol-based hand sanitizers.
- Keep cuts & scrapes clean & covered with a bandage until healed. Avoid contact with other people's bandages or wounds.
- Ensure that routine

housekeeping in the workplace is followed. Avoid sharing personal items such as uniforms and PPE.

- Ensure that contaminated equipment (PPE) & surfaces are cleaned with detergent-based cleaners or EPA-registered disinfectants.

The best way to prevent a Staph or MRSA infection is to do what most of you are already doing. No new chemicals needed, no special procedures needed, and no new work practices. Good hygiene, good housekeeping, and clean areas contaminated with detergent-based cleaners or EPA-registered disinfectants is all that is needed. Happy Cleaning and have a Happy Holidays.

## FOR YOUR INFORMATION



### *Safety Suzy Says:*

Thermal Imaging is becoming a popular tool in the IAQ industry. It has been determined that the proper use of this

technology can help cut investigation time significantly. This technology uses the variances in temperatures to accurately pinpoint potential problems. Give **FED** a call for more information on this new tool.

### *Top 10 Things An Aerial Operator Needs to Know. (By Oregon OSHA)*

1. **Training** - Give *Future Environment Designs* a call we can set this up for you.
2. **Read the Operator's Manual**
3. **Pre-Start Inspection**
4. **Workplace Inspection.**
5. **Stay Away From Power-lines** - The standard is at least 10 feet away including any material handled on the platform.
6. **Direction of Travel Arrows**
7. **Battery Charging and Fuel Problems** - The most common reason for a service call.
8. **Emergency Descent Controls**
9. **Annual And Frequent Inspections**
10. **Don't Operate a Lift that is not Operating Properly**

### *IAQA compiles "Wildfire Property Safety and Restoration" Guide.*

Indoor Air Quality Association compiled a guide to assist people living in areas affected by wildfires. To access this guide visit [http://www.iaqa.org/wildfire\\_safety.htm](http://www.iaqa.org/wildfire_safety.htm). The 4-page guide provides information on protecting existing property from fire threats, PPE from active smoke and soot, restoration and recovery of property after the fires, selecting a fire damage restoration contractor, indoor environmental consulting and clean up, and other topics and resources.

November - March Courses (Location)	DATE
Asbestos Handler Initial (Long Island City, New York)	Nov. 26 - 29
Asbestos Air Sample Technician/Project Monitor Refresher (Syosset)	Nov 27
Asbestos Operations & Maintenance Initial (Syosset)	Nov. 28 - 29
Asbestos Operations & Maintenance Refresher (Upton, New York)	Nov. 30
Asbestos Supervisor Initial (Long Island City, New York)	Dec. 3 - 7
Asbestos Inspector Initial (Syosset)	Dec. 10 - 12
Asbestos Inspector/Management Planner Refresher (Syosset)	Dec. 13
Asbestos Handler Refresher (Syosset)	Dec. 17
Asbestos Supervisor Refresher (Syosset)	Dec. 20
Asbestos Inspector/Management Planner Refresher (Lake Success, NY)	Jan. 2
Asbestos Project Designer Refresher (Lake Success, NY)	Jan. 3
HUD Lead Based Paint Course for Renovators & Remodelers (Syosset)	Jan. 14
Asbestos Air Sample Technician/Project Monitor Refresher (Yaphank, NY)	Jan. 17
Asbestos Supervisor Refresher (Saturday - Bayshore, NY)	Jan. 19
Mold Remediation Worker/Manager Course (Syosset)	Jan. 23 - 24
Asbestos Supervisor Refresher (Syosset)	Feb. 7
Asbestos O&M/Handler Refresher (Syosset)	Feb. 14
Asbestos Inspector Refresher (Syosset)	Feb. 21
Asbestos Air Sample Technician/Project Monitor Refresher (Syosset)	Mar. 3
Asbestos O&M/Handler Refresher (Syosset)	Mar. 6
Asbestos Inspector/Management Planner Refresher (Syosset)	Mar. 13
Asbestos Supervisor Refresher (Syosset)	Mar. 17
Asbestos Project Designer Refresher (Syosset)	Mar. 20



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Keeping Employees Safe

We're on the web  
[www.futureenv.com](http://www.futureenv.com)

### *Future Environment Design's Training Services*

We would like to remind everyone that **Future Environment Design's** Training Services includes more than asbestos. We are able to perform OSHA compliance training for general industry and construction standards.

In addition, we are developing courses that will enable participants to apply for recertifying credits with various certifying bodies. We are currently developing courses on Phase I Environmental Assessments, Using Thermal Imaging, Using EPA's Moldiness Index, and are working with Ando International on developing courses to comply with the New York City Building Department regulations. Give us a call if any of these courses interest you or you have a need for a course to help your staff get up to speed on a regulation or a work practice.



*Have a Happy Thanksgiving, a Merry Holidays Season, and a Happy New Year. Thank you for your support!*

### *Advertise Your Business or Job Openings*

**Future Environment Designs** is now offering sponsorships that can work with your advertising, marketing, or hiring campaigns to specifically access the individuals that purchase asbestos, safety and health

supplies and equipment or individuals that may be looking for work. So far in 2007, we have printed over 200 course manuals that our students use for our courses and as a reference for looking up questions. In addition, we have handed-out catalogs, posters, postcards, and other handouts from our current sponsors. We have three levels of sponsorships that have been set-up to work with various budgets. For complete information and details on each of these Sponsorship levels call us for our brochure.