



Hurricane Sandy Flood Cars and Health Concerns

There should be a concern with the contamination of vehicles by flood water and with the buildup of mold resulting from water and moisture in flood vehicles. This should be another major concern for resold Hurricane Sandy vehicles in addition to issues of water contaminated drivelines, progressive corrosion, brittle wiring and other water related damage. Checking with the Centers for Disease Control, they have confirmed that the research on house born mold damage and the related health risks also apply to passengers riding in mold contaminated motor vehicles.

NSVRP has been monitoring many of the auction sites of Hurricane Sandy total-loss vehicles that are being offered for sale through salvage auctions. It appears that most of these vehicles that have already been sold, and most of the many thousands that still are waiting for resale are not being detoxified using thorough disassembly and detoxification procedures such as recommended by NSVRP. Based upon the photos, a substantial fraction look to have been sitting for weeks or months before being resold, and offered for sale without thorough cleaning and processing.

The following is an extract from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention advisory titled 'Facts About Mold and Dampness'. http://www.cdc.gov/mold/dampness_facts.htm#health

Mold and Your Health

Exposure to damp and moldy environments may cause a variety of health effects, or none at all. Some people are sensitive to molds. For these people, molds can cause nasal stuffiness, throat irritation, coughing or wheezing, eye irritation, or, in some cases, skin irritation. **People with mold allergies may have more severe reactions. Immune-compromised people and people with chronic lung illnesses, such as obstructive lung disease, may get serious infections in their lungs when they are exposed to mold.** These people should stay away from areas that are likely to have mold, such as compost piles, cut grass, and wooded areas.

In 2004 the Institute of Medicine (IOM) found there was sufficient evidence to link indoor exposure to mold with upper respiratory tract symptoms, cough, and wheeze in otherwise healthy people; with asthma symptoms in people with asthma; and with hypersensitivity pneumonitis in individuals susceptible to that immune-mediated condition. The IOM also found limited or suggestive evidence linking indoor mold exposure and respiratory illness in otherwise healthy children.

In addition, in 2004 the IOM found sufficient evidence to link exposure to damp indoor environments in general to upper respiratory tract symptoms, cough, and wheeze in otherwise healthy people and with asthma symptoms in people with asthma. The IOM also found limited or suggestive evidence linking exposure to damp indoor environments in general to shortness of breath, to respiratory illness in otherwise healthy children and to potential development of asthma in susceptible individuals. In 2009, the World Health Organization issued additional guidance, the WHO Guidelines for Indoor Air Quality: Dampness and Mould http://www.euro.who.int/_data/assets/pdf_file/0017/43325/E92645.pdf Other recent studies have suggested a potential link of early mold exposure to development of asthma in some children, particularly among children who may be genetically susceptible to asthma development, and that selected interventions that improve housing conditions can reduce morbidity from asthma and respiratory allergies, but more research is needed in this regard.

For more information on mold and health risks, please view these additional links on the CDC.gov web site <http://www.cdc.gov/mold/>

Mold Cleanup Recommendations Fact Sheet - http://www.bt.cdc.gov/disasters/mold/report/pdf/2005_moldtable5.pdf

The National Salvage Vehicle Reporting Program (NSVRP) is a not-for-profit 501 (C) (3). The organization was founded to support law enforcement and to promote and support efforts to advance the National Motor Vehicle Title Information System (NMVTIS). NSVRP's mission is to support initiatives to control auto-theft and title abuse. NSVRP's Board of Directors consists of representatives of major law enforcement groups, and is an independent third party standards provider for NMVTIS. NSVRP has been recognized both by the Department of Justice and the FBI for 'Exceptional Service in the Public Interest' for its public policy efforts.

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