

Findings – The assessment of fungal spores in air indicates that people who enter Dwight Bentel Hall are at no greater risk of exposure to fungal spores than the general public walking on campus in the outdoor air.

On Wednesday, August 27, 2014, San Jose State University, Environmental Health & Safety (EH&S), initiated the assessment of fungal spores in air to determine the relative abundance of spores in Dwight Bentel Hall after the repair and remediation of water intrusion in the building. A sampling plan was developed and supervised by EH&S and implemented by Steve Parpan of Forensic Analytical Laboratories to collect samples on Allergenco Spore Traps and to have them analyzed in accordance with a modified ASTM D7391 standard for the Categorization and Quantification of Airborne Fungal Structures in an Inertial Impaction Sample by Optical Microscopy.

A total of 33 samples were collected from both indoor and outdoor locations in and around the areas most impacted by the water intrusion and also in Tower Hall as a comparison.

- Of the 33 samples collected, spore counts ranged from 11,000 spores per meter cubed (S/m³) located outdoors on the south side of Tower Hall to zero in Dwight Bentel Hall Office 110 where floor repairs had been made as a result of water intrusion.
- Samples collected outdoors or in rooms with windows opened to the outdoors ranged from 530 on the west side of Tower Hall to 11,000 on the south side of Tower Hall with a mode of approximately 2000 S/m³ in the outdoor air located on the north and south side of Dwight Bentel Hall.
- Samples collected in rooms and corridors proximate to the most sever water damaged areas ranged from 160 in the Women’s restroom to 1200 in the Men’s Restroom with a average of approximately 500 S/m³ in the corridor
- The Journalism Office ranged from 130 to 190 with a count of 530 S/m³ located in DBH 103.
- The Spartan Daily Office ranged from 130 to 420, with the corridor to the office at 840 S/m³.
- Tower Hall rooms, corridors and offices ranged from 27 to 440 S/m³ with the top of the range located in the corridor at TH 207.
- The construction demolition work area in DBH 117 ranged from 2400 to 4000 and is above outdoor levels of 2000 S/m³.

