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Cleaning up Environmental firm finds niche in site sanitation

By: **Cindy Barth** – *Managing Editor*

Jay Martin, a vice president at **Decon Environmental & Engineering**, likes challenges – and that's probably a good thing, considering his line of work.

Head of Decon's Sanford office, Martin and his staff face the daily challenges of dealing with mold remediation, water damage, reconstruction and asbestos abatement. And if Decon's recent expansion into crime scene cleanup – primarily done right now through the company's Fort Lauderdale office – takes off as expected, he'll have even more work coming his way.

"We've been getting busier every year that we've been in Sanford," says Martin. "The type of work we do – there's a lot of it out there to be done."

Founded in 1987, Decon Environmental & Engineering specializes in solving quality-of-life problems for commercial property owners, developers and condominium owners. The company currently has offices in Sanford, Tampa and Fort Lauderdale, as well as Jamaica, N.Y., and Chester, Va.

The Sanford office handles a large amount of work in the area of asbestos abatement and mold remediation, Martin says.

The most challenging job to date: a two-month project in Port St. Lucie that required work throughout the school district there to deal with damage from last summer's hurricanes. Nearly 100 people worked on the job, Martin says, which became a seven-days-a-week project in order to get buildings open as soon as possible.

"We worked like crazy to get the schools open," Martin says. "We knew it was critical to get things back to normal as soon as possible."

That emphasis on getting the job done quickly and efficiently has won Decon kudos from Orange County Public Schools, for which the company has worked as a contractor, handling asbestos abatement among other things.

Steve Arcidiacono, director of environmental affairs for the school district, says what he appreciates most about Decon is the company's ability to do work without creating a problem with building availability.

"If we can, we try to do a lot of the work on weekends when no one is there," says Arcidiacono. "But you can't always have that luxury. Decon has been able to do its work while not interfering with what's going on in the various buildings, and that makes things a whole lot easier."

While environmental remediation work in schools and at commercial properties has been a mainstay for the Sanford



Decon toxic clean-up crew

office, the decision by Decon to launch a crime and trauma scene decontamination division bodes well for even more work in the future for the Sanford office, says Alon Levin, vice president with the Fort Lauderdale office, where the new division currently is located.

Levin says that due to liability concerns, a number of property managers, office managers, facility personnel and homeowners – not to mention police – are unwilling or unable to deal with the hazards and risks associated with blood and other pathogens in a trauma environment.

"Because we are a leader in the field of environmental cleaning and remediation, it was a natural progression to add crime and trauma scene cleanup," he says. "We wanted to provide security and peace of mind to our clients in this type of situation."

Levin says Decon plans to expand its crime scene cleanup services to its other Florida offices by June. He says that particular company niche is "growing considerably," and he expects the other offices to get a large share of the work by the end of this year.

That's OK with Martin: "More work means that we can continue to grow. Any company that wants to stay healthy has to always be on the lookout for new areas it can get involved with."

Offices: Sanford, Tampa and Fort Lauderdale; Jamaica, N.Y.; Chester, VA.

Line of Business: Mold remediation, water damage restoration, building dehumidification, emergency response, crime and trauma scene decontamination, construction services, asbestos and lead abatement, soil remediation and ice blasting.

Clients: Property and facility managers, developers, schools, government agencies, hospitals, hospitality, retail, banks and residential properties.

Year Established: 1987

Website: www.decon.com
