

## VALOR voice

Valor has spent 2024 focusing on excellence. We highlighted our use of ATP Testing in last month's newsletter and as we continue to strive for excellence at our company, we wanted to put a spot-light on decomposition cleaning and the importance of doing it the right way.

## The Value of Specialization: Decomposition Cleaning

At Valor we understand the profound impact that the loss of a loved one has on families and their community. As trusted partners of law enforcement, coroner/medical examiners, funeral homes, victim advocates, chaplains, and others such as Trauma Intervention Program volunteers, who support families during their time of loss, we strive to provide compassionate and professional cleaning services to ensure families have one less concern during difficult times.

We are often called to assist in situations where a loved one has passed but, for various reasons, they were not discovered immediately. Decomposition is a natural process which begins immediately upon death and progresses in stages until, if unchecked, all soft tissue is gone leaving only skeletal remains. When this process occurs in a home specialized products and procedures are required to remove residues and odors and to return the home to its original safe, healthy condition.

The stage to which decomposition has progressed determines the level and type of remediation required. In order to assess the scope of work needed, we begin by testing all surfaces in the area for the presence and level of ATP. This allows us to measure the degree of cross contamination which has spread throughout the residence via air currents, insect activity, or by other means. Then, we assess the best approach to removing all biohazard materials, which may involve removing furniture, carpets and pads, subflooring, drywall, and even structural components, to make sure there is no contamination left behind. Depending upon the results of our ATP testing we also clean and disinfect throughout the home wherever we have identified contamination. All of our technicians at Valor are provided with specialized training, and certification, in the use of state-of-the-art techniques and products, to effectively assess, remediate, clean, disinfect, and reconstruct the scenes they encounter.

For families dealing with the consequences of an event like this it is important that we have the proper resources and training to ensure their home is restored to a safe, livable, healthy condition. Owners of rental properties need to know that their property is safe and healthy for their new tenants and their family as well.

Families are often tempted to "self-clean" in these cases, without using professional help. This is most often due to concerns about the cost of hiring professional cleaning assistance. Self-cleaning carries significant risks such as exposure to hazardous organic material and pathogens, the secondary trauma of cleaning up a loved one's remains, and the likelihood that the end result will be less than optimum and incomplete. At Valor Technical Cleaning, we are committed to helping families to minimize their out of pocket expense by working with their insurance providers. In most cases the actual cost to the family for our service is considerably less than they expect, and considerably less than other companies who choose not to work with insurance providers. In the end they receive complete, professional cleaning, for a minimum out of pocket amount.

At Valor we are committed to supporting families, and to working closely with our referral partners by providing compassionate, professional care every time. We are also committed to providing the best information, advice, and answers to their questions for each person who calls our referral number. We believe each family deserves to receive the best information and the advice they need to make the most educated and informed decisions regarding their bioremediation needs.

Thank you for your dedication to serving our communities and for considering Valor Technical Cleaning as a resource for the families you serve.

## Valor in the Wild





Ryan Gausman & Deb Halsted, Pacific Northwest market leaders, at their Washington Coroner's Conference booth

Deb Halsted with a group of Washington coroners at the WACME Conference



Luke Warnke, our WI/MN market leader, at the Minnesota OJP Conference on Crime & Victimization



Our North Carolina market leader, Carrie Chapman, sponsored a first responders' event in Asheville, NC



Here at Valor, we honor the courageous men and women who have been killed in the line of duty. We humble ourselves in gratitude for the immense sacrifice they and their families made. We find inspiration in their courage, perseverance, and devotion to duty.

## **Upcoming Valor Events**

