

SCIENCE NEWS BRIEFING

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PEDIATRICS

Mold can make lungs bleed

ATLANTA - Pediatricians unable to trace the cause of bleeding lungs in infants should ask parents whether they've had severe water damage in their homes, a national pediatricians group recommended Monday.

Water damage in wood, wallpaper, ceiling tiles and paper products can sometimes give rise to toxic mold called stachybotrys that can attack the growing lungs of infants and cause bleeding.

Bleeding lungs among infants is rare in the United States. About 100 cases have been reported in the past four years, but it is not known how many are attributable to toxic molds in the home.

SEISMOLOGY

China sets up quake monitors

BEIJING - China has started building its first large-scale earthquake monitoring system to better predict when tremors could strike, the People's Daily said today.

The \$16 million satellite-based system would use lasers and other technology to measure movements in the Earth's crust that could signal an imminent earthquake, the newspaper said.

``Because crust monitoring technology was limited for a long time, China was only able to carry out earthquake observations at a few sites and within a small scope,'' it said.

The project was listed as one of three key scientific undertakings for the 1996-2000 period and would be completed in 2001, the paper said.

MOUNTAINEERING

Climbers will clean up Everest

SAN FRANCISCO - A team of North American climbers left Saturday on a mission to tidy up Mount Everest.

The 15-member Environmental Everest Expedition is the latest in a series of efforts aimed at removing some of the hundreds of oxygen canisters, fuel containers and batteries that have been left behind on the world's tallest mountain, team doctor Mark Cole said.

ENVIRONMENT

California recycles a big way

Citing a successful recycling program, state officials say Californians are about to recycle the 100 billionth can or bottle since the statewide recycling program became law 12 years ago. The milestone is expected this month.

At a rate of 19,000 containers a minute, Californians are recycling 80 percent of the glass, aluminum and plastic tagged with the state redemption logo, according to the state Division of Recycling.

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