

Kansas Radon Program Update 2017

On December 20, 2016,
Governor Sam Brownback
declared January to be
Kansas Radon Action Month.



Elevated radon levels have been found in every Kansas county.

One third of Kansas radon tests returns results over 4.0 pCi/L, the EPA action level.

Test your house today.

Test. Fix. Save a Life.

Home Sales Require Certified Testers



The Radon Certification Law allows homeowners or building owners to test their own residence or building from having to be certified for radon measurement. An additional exemption

allows for a person to test without certification as long as they do not receive compensation (payment).

However, the law clearly states that **during a sale or transfer of property a certified radon measurement technician must perform the measurements.** You can find a list of certified individuals on KDHE's website here: <http://www.kdheks.gov/radiation/homeowner.htm>.

*During real estate transactions, mitigators who are not measurement technicians, homeowners, and realtors **CANNOT** do the post-mitigation tests themselves. Leaving a charcoal kit is **NOT** an option.*

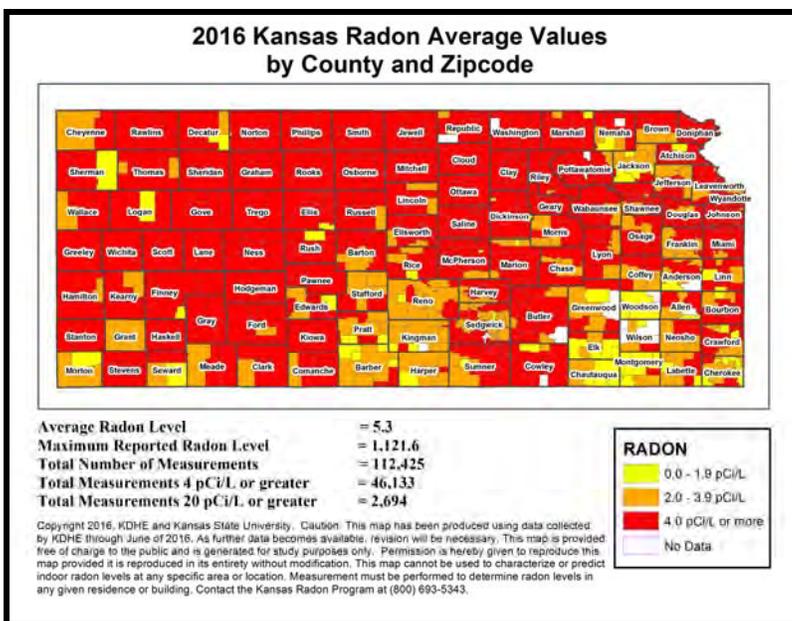
K.S.A. 48-16a05(e)

http://www.kdheks.gov/radiation/download/Radon_Certification_Law_Statute_48_16a_1_12.pdf

How to Understand Radon Maps: A Primer

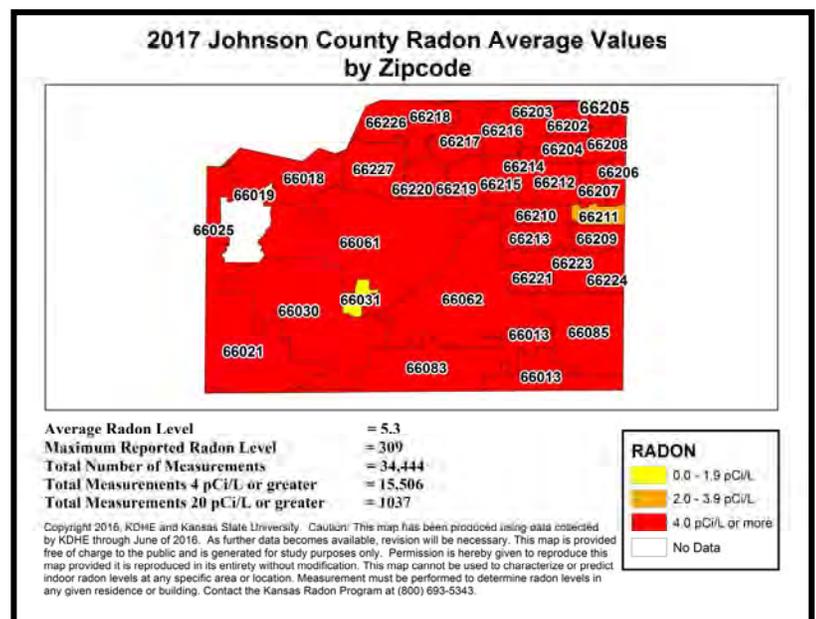
The Kansas Radon Program (KRP) produces, on a semi-annual basis, updated maps documenting radon measurement activity across the state and at the county levels for all counties. Current maps with data through June 2016 are available at www.kansasradonprogram.org. It is important to understand what information these provide, and what information they do not.

The maps include state or county **observed radon average**, **maximum reported radon value**, **total reported measurements**, and the **total reported measurements greater than or equal to 4 pCi/L** and **greater than or equal to 20 pCi/L**.



The **data** is descriptive and is **not intended to be used for predictive purposes**. *The only way to determine the radon level is to test.*

The intent and design of the maps is as a reporting tool to the radon industry and the Kansas public on radon measurement activity; **the maps ARE NOT designed (or able) to tell a homeowner in Kansas what their radon value will be upon testing.**



Upcoming Radon Training: (more info on all of these at www.kansasradonprogram.org)

Region 7 EPA State Radon Stakeholders' Meeting — 6 hours CE

Tuesday, March 7, 2017 — Manhattan, Kansas

Here is the free registration link for the Stakeholder Meeting Tuesday March 7th:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2017R7RadonMeeting> **Cost: Free**

CE Courses prior to Region 7 EPA Stakeholders Meeting — 8 hours CE

Monday, March 6, 2017 — Manhattan, Kansas

Radon Mitigation Quality Assurance – Higher Net Profit and More Client Referrals - 8 hours

Instructor: Bill Angell MURC-UMN

Participating in this Radon Mitigation Quality Assurance Plan (QAP) workshop will give you a strong customized plan that will save you money, improve your profit, limit legal liability, and increase customer satisfaction and referrals. If you already have a QA Plan for mitigation, bring it for suggestions on improvement. To get the most out of this workshop: 1. bring your laptop or pad style device with battery power to last 7 hours 2. plan to offer and hear great suggestions; and 3. expect to have fun. **\$175 including Heartland Chapter AARST fee: \$150 without fee.**

Or

Inspecting the Radon Mitigation System with Home Inspection with Field Reviews - 8 hours

Instructor: Bruce Snead MURC-KSU

This course provides information about properly installed radon mitigation systems, along with an overview of radon, radon entry and behavior, standard radon mitigation methods, available system checklists from national programs and regulatory states, and lots of examples of what and what not to do. It will also include 2-4 site visits or case studies (option if weather is an issue) to inspect existing radon mitigation systems using alternative checklists. **\$175 including Heartland Chapter AARST fee: \$150 without fee.**

Here is the link to information on the two courses:

Course Information: <http://www.engext.ksu.edu/radoncourses>

To register online, visit:

<https://outreach.ksu.edu/etrakWebApp/Registration.aspx?MeetingCode=605097AW>

Combined Radon Measurement and Mitigation Course and Exams

February 20-25, 2017 — Little Rock, AR

Course Information: <http://www.engext.ksu.edu/radoncourses> **Cost Varies: \$515-\$850**

To register online, visit: <https://outreach.ksu.edu/etrakWebApp/Registration.aspx?MeetingCode=605097AV>

Studying the Health Impacts of Radon: The Iowa Lung Cancer Study

The Iowa Radon Lung Cancer Study assessed the risk posed by residential radon exposure. The **5-year study** was a large-scale study initiated in 1993 and funded by the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS). It was conducted in Iowa with **women throughout Iowa** who lived in their current home for at least 20 years. Over **1,000 Iowa women** took part in the study. Of those, 413 participants developed lung cancer. The remaining 614 were controls who did not have lung cancer. The study was limited to women, because they historically tend to spend more time at home and they have less workplace exposure to other causes of lung cancer.

The study **used the most advanced radon exposure measurement techniques** ever performed in a residential radon study. Numerous year-long radon measurements were made in each participant's home. The outdoor radon levels were measured for each home and workplace exposure was estimated. Together this data gave a **full picture of cumulative radon exposure during the preceding 20 years** for each woman.

The Iowa Radon Lung Cancer Study **used the data** from these 1,000 women to **estimate a person's increased chances of getting lung cancer** when exposed to elevated radon of a certain level. If a person had a radon exposure equal to about **15 years at an average of 4 pCi/L** — the EPA's radon action level and common level in Iowa homes, the study found the lung cancer risk was increased: The women were about **50% more likely to get lung cancer** than those who were not exposed to radon. Of course, the **actual results of the study were more complex**, but this gives a sense of the findings and strength of the study.

The Iowa Radon Lung Cancer Study had several strengths.



- The study was carried out in **Iowa**, which has the **highest mean radon concentrations in the United States**.
- The high radon concentrations in conjunction with a **strict quality assurance protocol** contributed to accurate and precise radon measurements.
- The criteria requiring occupancy in the **current home for at least the last 20 years eliminated** the need to **estimate** radon measurements from **missing homes**.

The Iowa Radon Lung Cancer Study risk estimates are in general agreement with the National Research Council's previous estimates of lung cancer risk associated with indoor radon exposure. Overall, the risk estimates obtained in this study indicate that **cumulative radon exposure in the residential environment is significantly associated with lung cancer risk**.

A copy of the study can be found here: <https://cheec.uiowa.edu/residential-radon-and-lung-cancer-case-control-study>

This article is a synopsis of two separate documents on the study and was prepared by Bruce Snead.