Welcome

This is the first newsletter serving radon measurement, mitigation and laboratory individuals certified in Kansas. The intent is to share information of value to all participants, especially in the first year of the program. We plan quarterly issues initially. We welcome your suggestions, questions and requests in order to meet your needs and help us all provide quality radon risk-reduction services to the people of Kansas.

What’s in this issue?

- Kansas Radon Action Month outreach activities
- Radon-resistant new construction – expand your business
- Kansas radon data submission requirements – Important!
- New online training courses available in April
- Real estate training offered to local boards
- Frequently asked questions (FAQ) – mitigation exhaust points
- Who’s who in the Kansas Radon Program
On Wednesday, January 4, 2012, Governor Sam Brownback signed a proclamation naming January 2012 Kansas Radon Action Month (KRAM). KRAM information was available to the public through both the Kansas Department of Health and Environment’s (KDHE) radon web page and www.kansasradonprogram.org hosted by the Kansas Radon Program at K-State College of Engineering Extension Programs. A sample of statewide radon educational activities includes the following:

- **Public Education Program (PEP) public service announcements.** In cooperation with the Kansas Association of Broadcasters, the Kansas Radon Program provided radon-specific television and radio public service announcements to all broadcast media stations in Kansas. A total of 2535 radio spots and 700 television spots on radon were aired January 15-March 15, 2012.

- **Distribution of radon test kits.** The Kansas Radon Program distributed 1,502 radon test kits to K-State Extension offices January 1-March 30, 2012. These kits are available to the public at reduced cost and are only sent to Extension offices at the request of the offices.

- **Television and radio interviews.** Kansas Radon Program staff from both KDHE and K-State College of Engineering Extension Programs provided both live or recorded television and radio interviews across the state, including but not limited to Hays, Manhattan, Marysville and Kansas City.

- **Governor’s proclamation:** On January 4, 2012, Governor Sam Brownback signed a proclamation declaring January to be Kansas Radon Action Month.


- **Kansas Radon Poster Contest awards recognition.** KDHE recognized the winners for the 2012 Kansas Radon Poster Contest with certificates and prizes. The top three winning Kansas radon posters were submitted to the National Radon Poster Contest.

A complete list of Kansas Radon Action Month activities can be found at www.radonleaders.org. It should be noted that support for most of these activities was provided via the State Indoor Radon Grant (SIRG) program. Funds for the SIRG program have currently been eliminated from the President’s Fiscal 2013 budget. Loss of SIRG grant support will significantly impair the Kansas Radon Program’s capacity to provide statewide radon education and outreach.
Radon-resistant new construction – expand your business

The spring home construction season may provide Kansas mitigation professionals with an opportunity to expand their services. Radon-resistant new construction (RRNC) building techniques provide the option for homebuilders to include a passive radon reduction system in all new single- and two-family homes they place on the market. Marketing RRNC options to local builders or code officials could lead to additional installations.

The Environmental Protection Agency recommends installing RRNC techniques in all new homes built in EPA Zone 1 counties or in counties where local measurement data indicate significant indoor radon potential. Possible avenues of marketing are listed below:

- **Cost savings to builders who voluntarily adopt RRNC practices.** Typical cost of building a new home with RRNC is generally $250 to $500. Cost of retrofitting an active radon-reduction system to an existing home is typically between $800 and $2500.

- **Marketing advantages.** In counties that exhibit high percentages of homes with elevated radon levels, builders that include RRNC techniques can actively market their homes as such. The Kansas Radon Program can provide local builders with a list of EPA Zone 1 counties in which they build residences.

- **Provide education to the sales teams.** Offer to provide RRNC or radon and real estate seminars to companies that provide custom home building. The minimal costs associated with RRNC techniques potentially offer these companies a significant marketing advantage.

- **Governmental education efforts.** Approach the local board that reviews and recommends adoption of area building codes. Schedule a RRNC presentation with the board and provide that board with relevant information: health risks of radon exposure, costs of RRNC, code options. Appendix F is an optional code language in the International Residential Code that when adopted requires installation of RRNC techniques in all new single- and two-family residences. Currently Manhattan (since 2001), Topeka (since 2005) and Lawrence (since 2007) have all adopted the Appendix F into their building code requirements. Appendix F is available on the KDHE website at [http://www.kdheks.gov/radiation/radon.htm#laws](http://www.kdheks.gov/radiation/radon.htm#laws)

The Kansas Radon Program can provide technical support and guidance to interested governmental bodies. Local officials can contact Bruce Snead or Brian Hanson at 785-532-6026 or by email at bsnead@ksu.edu or bhanson@ksu.edu.
Kansas radon data submission requirements

The submission of Kansas radon data to KDHE has been a source of many questions and confusion for some certified radon technicians and laboratories. The Kansas Radon Certification Law requires reports on testing, analysis and mitigation to be reported to the Kansas Department of Health and Environment. This report must include the following:

- Address where the services were provided
- Location within the building
- Approximate age of the building
- Date on which service was provided
- Type of equipment or test kit used for radon measurements
- Whether the radon test was pre-mitigation or post-mitigation
- Results

KDHE has provided an Excel spreadsheet which is the specified format for submitting radon data. This spreadsheet can be downloaded from the KDHE website at [http://www.kdheks.gov/radiation/radon.htm](http://www.kdheks.gov/radiation/radon.htm).

As required by regulation 28-35-601(g), “Each person certified under the radon certification law and these regulations shall submit the reports required by K.S.A.48-16a10, and amendments thereto, and any additional relevant information requested by the department in a format specified by the department.” The spreadsheet must be used to allow all data received to be imported into the database directly. It also ensures that all data received is consistent and compatible with the regulations. Radon data should be submitted at the end of each quarter.

Radon data should be submitted electronically via e-mail to the KDHE radon email address: radon@kdheks.gov. This e-mail address can also be used for answers to questions about data submission.

Below are some errors we are seeing frequently in the data submission. If the current version of the spreadsheet located on the KDHE website is used for data submission, these errors will not occur:

- Radon test results which did not occur in Kansas are being submitted.
- The column in the spreadsheet called “Test Location (Address)” should only include the street number and name – not the city.
- The column in the spreadsheet called “Test Location (City)” should include the city – please do not add “KS” or “Kansas” - all test results should be from Kansas.
- When reporting the estimated age of the building, please enter only a number which is the age of the building, not the year in which it was constructed. Do not add “Years” or “Yrs” or any label.
- When reporting radon levels, please only include the number – do not include units such as “pCi/L”, and please do not include less than “<” signs.
- Certified radon measurement technicians have one worksheet in this spreadsheet. Certified radon mitigation technicians have a different worksheet in this spreadsheet and Certified laboratories also have a separate worksheet in this spreadsheet. Each worksheet has a color-coded tab.

Though the submission process and assimilation process for the radon data takes extra time on the part of the certified radon technicians, laboratories and KDHE staff, the value of this data makes it a worthwhile process. Plans are underway to use the data as an outreach and educational tool to help encourage more Kansas citizens to test and fix their homes. Plans are also underway to share radon data with the Kansas Environmental Public Health tracking program to be used for epidemiological studies and environmental health tracking. Stay tuned for more information on radon data in Kansas!
Real estate training offered to local boards

One of the major educational outreach programs each year by the Kansas Radon Program (KRP) is professional continuing education on radon for the real estate industry. Each January, the KRP sends out a letter to every county board of realtors reminding them that the KRP offers no-cost, on-site continuing education credit as approved by the Kansas Real Estate Commission (KREC) as part of the State Indoor Radon Grant (SIRG) project.

During the current SIRG fiscal year (10/1/11-9/30/12), the KRP has presented three radon and real estate courses to date; one course in Winfield to 18 real estate professionals, and two courses in Kansas City through the Kansas City Regional Association of Realtors (KCRAR) to a total of 151 real estate professionals.

Additional real estate training courses are currently scheduled for Liberal (4/23), Augusta (5/10), and KCRAR (7/10). Since October 2010, the KRP has trained a total of 310 real estate professionals on radon statewide. Interested realtors and realty boards are welcome to contact Brian Hanson at 785-532-6026 or by email at bhanson@ksu.edu for additional information.

New online training courses available in April

In partnership with the national consortium of Regional Radon Training Centers, Kansas State University will begin offering online Radon Training Courses this April.

The first Radon Measurement Training Course will be held April 16 – May 15 with Radon Mitigation and Combined Measurement and Mitigation Courses starting April 30 and ending June 13 (Mitigation) and July 14 (Combined). All courses are self-paced. Once the course is open, participants can join at any time but must finish by the ending date. Additional sessions will begin in July and August.

The online Radon Measurement Training Course qualifies as an initial radon measurement technician certification course for Kansas certification. The online Radon Mitigation Course will qualify as an initial radon mitigation technician certification course as long as the required “hands-on” or “field” portion of the mitigation training is also accomplished and the “Mentor Checklist for Field-Based Radon Mitigation Training” is submitted along with certification application. The courses all qualify as initial courses for NEHA certification. The mitigation stand-alone course is designed for those who have already taken a measurement course and will not satisfy NEHA requirements for the Mitigation Certification Exam without taking an additional measurement training course.

More information on the courses available and upcoming sessions can be found at www.radoncoursesonline.org.
Frequently asked questions (FAQ)

Each quarter in this column of the newsletter we will answer a technical question we have received regularly from our certified radon measurement or mitigation technicians.

**QUESTION:** Do I have to discharge the active soil depressurization system (ASD) above the eave of the roof?

**INCORRECT**

**ANSWER:** At this time, Kansas has adopted EPA “Radon Mitigation Standards” as the required protocols to be followed for installation of a radon mitigation system, which require ASD discharge to be above the eave of the roof. These standards can be downloaded from our website at http://www.kdheks.gov/radiation/radon.htm#protocols.

**INCORRECT**

Section 14.2.8 of these standards reads as follows:

“To prevent re-entrainment of radon, the point of discharge from vents of fan-powered soil depressurization and block wall depressurization systems shall meet all of the following requirements: (1) be above the eave of the roof, (2) be ten feet or more above ground level, (3) be ten feet or more from any window, door, or other opening into conditioned spaces of the structure that is less than two feet below the exhaust point, and (4) be ten feet or more from any opening into an adjacent building. The total required distance (ten feet) from the point of discharge to openings in the structure may be measured either directly between the two points or be the sum of measurements made around intervening obstacles. Whenever possible, the exhaust point should be positioned above the highest eave of the building and as close to the roof ridge line as possible.”

**CORRECT**
Who's who in the Kansas Radon Program

The Kansas Radon Program is a partnership between Kansas State University (KSU) and the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE). Listed below are names and contact information for the Kansas Radon Program:

**KDHE**
KDHE handles questions regarding certification processes, rules, requirements, fees, continuing education, radon data or technical questions about radon.

Tele: 785-296-1560
KDHE Radon e-mail: radon@kdheks.gov
Website: http://www.kdheks.gov/radiation/radon.htm

Technical questions:
Kim Steves, Program Supervisor
Stewart Steen
Jessi Snook
Shay Hannah

Certification questions:
Pam Watson
Marla Oestreich

Radon data:
Jason Meinholdt

**KSU**
KSU fields questions regarding radon training, outreach/education, or technical questions about radon and radon mitigation systems.

Tele: 1-800-693-5343
KSU Radon e-mail: radon@ksu.edu
Website: www.kansasradonprogram.org

Technical questions/training/outreach:
Bruce Snead
Brian Hanson
Kristina Snyder

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2010 Kansas Radon Average Values by County

![Map showing radon levels by county](image)

**Average Radon Level** = 4.8 pCi/L
**Maximum Reported Radon Level** = 260
**Total Number of Measurements** = 50,182
**Total Measurements 4 pCi/L or greater** = 20,592

Copyright 2010, KDHE and Kansas State University. Caution: This map has been produced from the results of a limited statewide indoor radon survey completed by KDHE in 1998, with the addition of additional radon collected since. This map is provided free of charge to the public and is generated for study purposes only. No further data becomes available, revision will be necessary. This map cannot be used to characterize or predict indoor radon levels at any specific area or location. Measurement must be performed to determine radon levels in a given residence or building. Contact the Kansas Radon Program at 800-693-5343. Permission is hereby given to reproduce this map provided it is reproduced in its entirety without modification.

Legend
- **RADON**
  - 0.0 - 1.9 pCi/L
  - 2.0 - 3.9 pCi/L
  - 4.0 pCi/L or more