



pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



Bureau of Radiation Protection

PA Radon Program

Denise Bleiler, Supervisor
Bureau of Radiation Protection

EPA Region III Stakeholder Meeting
June 25, 2019

Tom Wolf, Governor

Patrick McDonnell, Secretary

PA Radon Division- staff

- Program Manager – **Bob** Lewis
 - **Gail** Ramsey
 - MT- vacancy
 - Summer Intern- **John**
- Certification Section
 - **Maria** Coons - Supervisor
 - **Jamie** Ruminski
 - Vacancy
- Monitoring Section
 - **Denise** Bleiler - Supervisor
 - **Ryan** Fox
 - Vacancy

PA Radon Division- Regional support

- **SERO inspectors** ~ 5 inspectors
 - Kathy King
 - Bethany Piper
 - Tori Parker
 - John Kime
 - Dennis Kutz
 - Serena Groff
 - Ben Jenkins

- **SWRO inspectors**
 - Alyssa Oskin
 - Brandi Kautz

PA Radon Division- Certified Industry

Cert Type Desc	Radon Cert Id COUNT
TESTING INDIVIDUAL	484
MITIGATION INDIVIDUAL	131
LABORATORY INDIVIDUAL	21
LABORATORY FIRM	17
TESTING FIRM	83
MITIGATION FIRM	55

June 6, 2019

PA Radon Division- Results reported

Calendar Year	Number of Tests per distinct address-Homes	Number of Mitigations
2018	82,039	13,145
2017	84,402	13,299
	-all locations (basement, first floor, etc.) -all house types -all measurement devices	

RADON

Of all the states, PA's radon problem may be the most severe in the country.



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Radon

FIVE THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT RADON

- 1 IT IS FOUND EVERYWHERE IN PENNSYLVANIA
- 2 IT IS A CANCER CAUSING RADIOACTIVE GAS
- 3 #1 CAUSE OF LUNG CANCER IN NON-SMOKERS IN THE U.S.
- 4 40% OF PA HOMES HAVE RADON LEVELS ABOVE RECOMMENDED ACTION LEVELS
- 5 THE ONLY WAY TO KNOW YOUR RADON LEVEL IS TO TEST. TESTING IS EASY & INEXP.

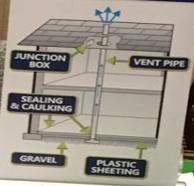
RADON HOW DO YOU KNOW? TEST

SCHOOL HOME WORK

Test Kits are easy, inexpensive and sold at hardware stores. Certified by DEP, PA law requires all third-party persons performing radon testing, mitigation or laboratory analysis to be certified.



Features of Radon-Resistant New Construction



JUNCTION BOX VENT PIPE
SEALING & CAULKING
GRAVEL PLASTIC SHEETING

RADON is the second leading cause of LUNG CANCER



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PA Radon Division- Outreach

- NRAM – PSA, Social media, U-tube mitigation,
 - PSATS article
- Mason-Dixon Community Fair – Dec 2018
- Berks Co (Nov 2018) and Lehigh County(March 2019) RE&B Symposium
- Home Show- Feb-March 2019
- Lehigh Valley Aging Expo – April 2019
- Events with DOH
 - LCS event – March 2019
 - PA Cancer Conference – April 2019
 - Lung Expo – May 2019 - SWRO

Outreach-LungForce EXPO- SWRO



PA Radon Division- ongoing projects

- Newborn and Remedial
- DOH / ALA / CAB-PCC
- Performance Evaluations
- DATA
 - Power BI
 - Application-Cleansing-Warehouse-Delivery
 - Jen Gumert – Radon App

PA Radon Division - ALA

American Lung Association (ALA) – Targeted Surveys

- Targeted counties with few results (2011 - 2014)
- Targeted Municipalities with areas of over 100 pCi/L (2014 - present)
 - Included schools in 2017 – successful
 - Paul Houle School’s Course
 - » 13 School Districts
 - » Distributed 4298 test kits
- **This year** – Letter offered test kit through ALAFREEKIT link on their web

2019 ALA Targeted Survey Participants

LINK to free test kits

Municipality	County	Date responded	Date letter went out	Number addresses on spreadsheet	
Bald Eagle TWP	Clinton Co	11-29-2018	1-18-2019	768	
Franklin Park Borough	Allegheny Co		1-25-2019	5235	
Fairview TWP	Luzerne Co		2-22-2019	1690	Hold by ALA , IT issue resolved
Penn TWP	Berks Co	1-17-2019	1-30-2019	791	
White TWP	Indiana Co	1-24-2019	Newsletter ~ end of March MAY	? 6,025 ?	Permission for Newsletter
Scott TWP	Columbia Co	2-26-2019	3-11-2019	1929	

10,413 letters sent + one newsletter

~ 35 – 40 % participation

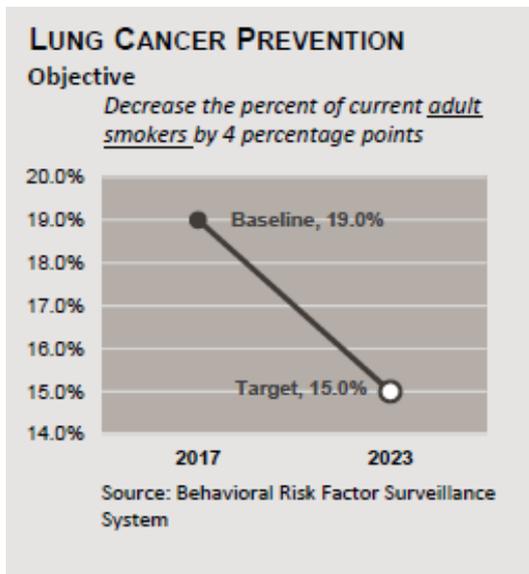
PA Radon Division- DOH

- CAB/PCC- Dec 2018 –working on new Ca Control Plan
 - Increase number of radon mitigations
 - GOAL 4 – Lung Cancer Reduction

Prevention Goals and Strategies

from the draft 2019-2023 Pennsylvania Cancer Control Plan

Goal 4: Prevent Lung Cancer from Environmental Exposure

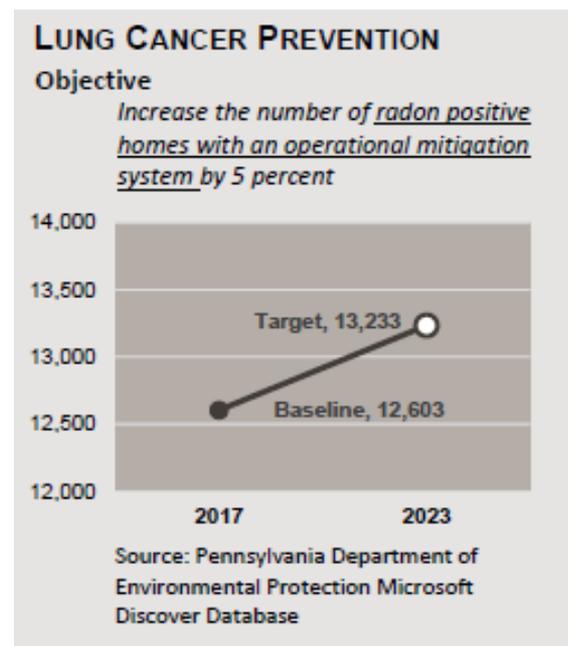


Tobacco Cessation Strategies

1. Advocate for smoking cessation as part of employee orientation. **PSE**
2. Integrate current cessation aid/resources and assisted referrals (text to quit, online quit coach, websites) into cessation programming
3. Promote multi-component interventions that include counseling and Nicotine Replacement Therapy (NRT) in the adult population, including older adults and cancer survivors.
4. Reduce client out of pocket expenses by securing comprehensive cessation coverage for private/public insurance and Medicaid. **PSE**
5. Increase tobacco cessation by educating providers on all quit smoking products.

Radon Abatement Strategies

1. Increase awareness of the effects of radon as it relates to lung cancer
2. Promote proven techniques to reduce exposure to radon by seeking sponsors to fund low-income radon mitigation and testing. **PSE**
3. Increase community access to radon testing by developing local programs to test and mitigate low income housing through private and public partnerships and home inspection agencies
4. Reduce exposure to radon in new or existing construction by embedding radon risk reduction in state and local building codes. **PSE**
5. Increase the capacity of health care providers and staff to ask about radon testing in the patient's home and provide educational and testing resources. **PSE**
6. Increase testing in non-real estate transactions by promoting radon awareness to medical, public health and childcare communities.



PA Radon Division- DOH- EJ

Nate Burden – proposed pilot plan

MOVES for Radon EJ (Environmental Justice)
Cancer Reduction: Allegheny County- Homewood
and Wilksburg Communities

Minority-low Income **O**perational **V**iable **E**conomic
Solutions for Radon EJ Cancer Reduction

Testing to take place – early JULY 2019

(CCI challenges) funding timeline

PA Radon Division- DOH-EJ

- Partners:

- PA AARST-Nate Burden –Chapter President
- PA DOH – Joanna Stoms – **CDC workplan goal** to increase number of mitigation systems installed by 200 for 2018-2019
(connection with PA Cancer Control Plan GOALS)
- CCI – Conservation Consultants, Inc, Alison Steele – identify communities in need
- CR3 –Citizen’s for Radioactive Radon Reduction, Jackie Nixon – Outreach
- PA DEP – Denise Bleiler- Industry support – value added participation- CE credit for participation

PA Radon Division- DOH

Received 5000 copies CRCPD

mailed to 4700 physicians--- MAY 2019

Reducing the Risk from Radon:

Information and Interventions

A Guide for Health Care Providers

Link to doc on PA LIVEHealthy website

PA Radon Division- Re-entrainment

- Re-entrainment Study – Contract with Brad Turk
What affect does ground level exhaust have on re-entrainment back into the building?
- Advantages of ground level exhaust
 - Less visual impact
 - Greater operating efficiency and effectiveness
 - Increased fan operating life
 - Lower cost for installation
 - Less risk to installer than when installing tall pipes

PA Radon Division-Re-entrainment

- 10 Homes selected in Harrisburg area
- Systems installed by 2 local mitigators
- Data collection, analysis, and entry every 2 weeks by radon staff- **very time consuming**

PA Radon Division- High Homes

- Open House – March 2019
 - 25 people attend
 - New mitigator – Integra, Tony Domingues
 - Discuss ambient monitors
 - May 2019 – placed 17 ambient OSL and AT around neighborhood
 - 3 new homes built

PA Radon Division- Regs

- Update of Chapter 240 Radon Certification Regulations
 - **Final January 24, 2019**
 - First major update since 1991.
 - Codify items that were previously incorporated by reference.
 - Staff working on updating Cert booklet, inspection checklists
 - **New hardcopy Regulations sent out May 2019**

PA Radon Division- Ambient Radon Study

- For PA study- Capstone/ Masters work with student from University of Penn-- placed duplicate Radonova (ATD) and duplicate Optically Stimulated Luminescence (OSL) detectors in 62 PA counties, mostly in state parks.
- 55 State Parks- Due Dec. 2018
- 19 PA DEP staff and/or friends- Due Dec. 2018
- Report to Follow- still in progress

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