District of Columbia
Radon Program

7th Annual Region 3 Stakeholders Meeting
Tuesday, June 24, 2019

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Lead Safe & Healthy Housing Division

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Radon Activities – SIRG 29 (FY2019)

1. Radon Hotline
2. Attend local and Government community outreach events
3. Provide radon presentations and workshops
4. Construction Codes Coordinating Board approved and published proposed rulemaking for APPENDIX F, PASSIVE RADON GAS CONTROLS, from the International Residential Code in the District of Columbia Residential Code
5. Provided information for the next edition of the District’s Cancer Control Plan 2019
6. Radon leaflet campaign in Washington Post newspapers during NRAM
7. Developed new radon maps including 2013-2019
8. Completed the QMP/QAPP
9. School testing conducted by the District’s Department of General Services
APPENDIX F, PASSIVE RADON GAS CONTROLS

Appendix F, Passive Radon Gas Controls, of the International Residential Code is adopted in the District of Columbia as Appendix F of the Residential Code with the following amendments.

APPENDIX F  PASSIVE RADON GAS CONTROLS

AF101  SCOPE

AF103  PASSIVE RADON-RESISTANT SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

AF101  SCOPE

Strike Section AF101.1 of the International Residential Code in its entirety and insert new Section AF101.1 in the Residential Code in its place to read as follows:

AF101.1 General. Radon-resistant construction built in accordance with Section AF103 is required for new construction. These requirements are intended to provide a passive means of resisting radon gas entry and prepare the dwelling for post-construction radon mitigation, if necessary (see Figure AF102). Additions and Level 3 alterations should test their homes for radon and make radon testing results available upon request by the code official at permitting. If the testing results show 4 or more picocuries per liter (pCi/L) of radon, a radon system compliant with AF103 shall be installed for the work area.

Exception: Additions less than 100 square feet.
Outreach & Education

Washington Post insert campaign was a huge success, reaching over 152,945 residents! Increase in hotline calls (401) and website hits (1963).

**JANUARY IS RADON AWARENESS MONTH**

Radon is a naturally occurring, cancer-causing, radioactive gas. It can be found in your home and moves up through the ground into the air we breathe.

*You cannot see, smell, or taste radon. Testing is the only way to determine radon levels.*

To receive a free radon test kit, call the radon hotline at 202.535.2302 or visit doe.dc.gov/radon

**WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT RADON**

Radon is a naturally occurring, cancer-causing, radioactive gas. It is produced by a breakdown of radium in soil, rock, and water and moves up through the ground into the air and penetrates your home through cracks and other holes in the foundation.

Radon can be found in all types of buildings, including homes, offices, and schools. Your greatest exposure to radon may be where you spend most of your time — at home. Homes that are next to each other can have varying levels of radon, so do not rely on measurements taken in your neighbor’s home to determine your home’s radon levels.

Since radon levels tend to vary from day to day and season to season, a short-term test (lower than 90 days) will not provide your annual average radon level. Long-term tests (greater than 90 days) can be ordered through or purchased from a local hardware store.

The Surgeon General has warned radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer in the United States; only smoking causes more lung cancer deaths. You cannot see, smell, or taste radon. Testing is the only way to determine your home’s radon levels.

Residents of the District of Columbia should call the radon hotline at 202.535.2302 or visit doe.dc.gov/radon to receive a free radon test kit.

@DOEE_DC
Outreach & Education

NRAM 2019
DOEE Facebook page and DOH Community Health Administration Home Page

JANUARY IS NATIONAL RADON ACTION MONTH

A healthy home is a radon-free home. Radon is a naturally occurring, invisible, odorless gas that comes from deposits of uranium in soil, rock and water. It’s the 2nd leading cause of lung cancer and the leading cause of cancer for non-smokers in the US.

Take action and request a free test kit by calling the radon hotline at (202) 535-2302 or visit doe.d.c.gov/radon
For many years, radon was not included in the District’s Cancer Control Plan. Since 9/2017 radon staff has worked with the District’s Department of Health to have radon included in the CCP.
Currently, EPA has Washington, DC/District of Columbia listed as Zone 3.

Although the majority of test result data shows DC homes with levels lower than four (4) pico curries per liter (4pCi/L), some present levels above 4pCi/L.

More high levels in upper NW.

More outreach needed in NE and SE.

New residents are interested and testing.
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1. DC Radon rulemaking was published Friday February 26, 2016

2. Requires National Radon Safety Board and American Association of Radon Scientist and Technologist/National Radon Proficiency Program certification for anyone who test or mitigate radon
Conclusion

We will continue with our outreach efforts to educate District residents and encourage radon testing. Saving one life at a time, while improving healthy homes is well worth our efforts.

Thank you for your time and attention!