

Kansas Radon Program Newsletter

Serving individuals certified in radon measurement, mitigation and laboratory services in Kansas.



Kansas Radon Program

July 2018

Questions? Let's Talk.

Certification Questions

Mark Ungerer/ Jason Meinholdt at KDHE: 785-296-1560

<http://www.kdheks.gov/radiation/radon.htm>

General Radon Questions

Brian Hanson at KSU: 785-532-4996

<http://www.kansasradonprogram.org/>

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KDHE Sends Letters to Investigate Why Some Do Not Mitigate After Reported High Radon Results

As many of you are already aware, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment's Kansas Radon Program (KRP) recently sent out letters targeting addresses in Kansas that have had an elevated radon test but no record of a mitigation system being installed. Using data received from our certified measurement technicians and radon measurement laboratories during 2016, we were able to identify over 2,000 addresses that had tested over the action level of 4.0 pCi/l but did not have a corresponding record for mitigation installation.

A letter was sent to these addresses informing them of the date and radon level from the test. The letter recommended that the homeowner or occupant explore their options for mitigation and invited them to share their thoughts with us on why they may not have pursued the installation of a mitigation system. We included a recommendation that they contact a certified radon mitigation technician to install a mitigation system and directed them to the list of Kansas certified radon technicians on our website.

Since the letter was sent at the beginning of June, the KRP has been contacted by more than 100 homeowners who were interested in pursuing mitigation. We have also been able to identify individuals doing radon work without obtaining certification as required. Another finding is a small number of mitigation systems being installed by certified technicians that go unreported to KDHE. **Please remember to report any mitigation systems installed.**

It is our hope that this effort will both allow us to eliminate barriers to mitigation and increase business for our certified community for both mitigation and measurement. We care about protecting Kansas citizens from exposure to elevated levels of radon, and hope to conduct a similar review with 2017 data. This effort would not have been possible without the data reporting from our certified radon community.

Thank you all for your contributions that made this effort possible!

Radon and Real Estate Industry Outreach

In January 2018, the Kansas Radon Program and the Kansas Cancer Partnership began an outreach effort to the real estate industry in Kansas. A letter jointly signed by the Kansas Radon Program coordinator and the chair of the Kansas Cancer Partnership was sent to all local realtor boards in Kansas. The letter detailed the current radon goals in the 2017-2022 Kansas Comprehensive Cancer Plan: 1) increasing the percentage of homes tested for radon at point of sale and 2) increasing the number of communities that have adopted radon resistant new construction (RRNC) requirements.

The letter also detailed the no-cost Radon and Real Estate continuing education course available from the Kansas Radon Program. Since January, real estate training courses have been held in Junction City, Hays, and Kansas City (March 15 & June 14). Additional courses are scheduled for Parsons, Lawrence, and Kansas City.

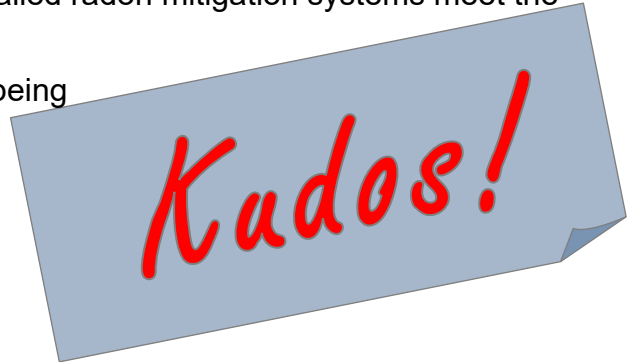
The radon industry in Kansas is welcome to promote this no-cost training to the real estate boards in their service area. Contact Brian Hanson at bhanson@ksu.edu or 785-532-4996 to discuss potential training dates.

Fewer Violations Seen in Kansas Mitigation Systems!

Over the past few months there has been a noticeable decrease in some of the most common violations that had previously been observed in mitigation systems. We are seeing fewer and fewer systems installed using improper materials, such as a vinyl downspout, and a decrease in the number of systems with improper electrical connections.

We would like to extend a thank you to our certified community for hearing our concerns regarding common violations and working to make sure that all installed radon mitigation systems meet the mitigation standards we have adopted.

We have also noticed a decrease in the amount of work being performed by non-certified individuals and more and more homeowners making sure to verify technicians are certified before they hire.



Thank you and keep up the good work!

Upcoming Training:

(more info on all of these at www.kansasradonprogram.org)

The Midwest Universities Radon Consortium (MURC) has been a partnership between the University of Minnesota (UMN) and Kansas State University (KSU) since 1989. Under the leadership of William Angell, MURC-UMN has provided radon training in Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, Tennessee, and Wisconsin. Professor Angell will retire in the fall of this year, and as a result, beginning July 1, 2018, UMN will close their program and transfer all radon training activities to MURC-KSU.

The Western Regional Radon Training Center (WRRTC) at the University of Colorado- Colorado Springs, led for many years by Dr. Jim Burkhart, who is retiring in September, will also close its operations and transfer all radon training activities to MURC-KSU. Over the years WRRTC has served the states of Washington, Oregon, California, Alaska, Hawaii, Idaho, Utah, Nevada, New Mexico, Wyoming, Montana, Colorado, North Dakota, and South Dakota. Both of these institutions and MURC-KSU have trained thousands of radon professionals across the country in service as members of the original EPA regional radon training centers.

MURC-KSU will be scheduling and promoting courses to continue and expand training opportunities in these regions and looks forward to partnering with states and industry in the effort. Web sites for the three institutions will have information updates on the status of the transfers and links to MURC-KSU when ready. Bruce Snead, Director of Engineering Extension and MURC-KSU since its inception, will lead these activities and is the point of contact for all questions regarding this change.

For more information:

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Manhattan, KS 66502
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bsnead@ksu.edu
www.radoncourses.com (online in late June)

Engineering Extension at Kansas State University announces new radon chamber services for radon industry

ksuradonchamber.org • radonchamber@ksu.edu

Radon program operations, conducted by Engineering Extension in the College of Engineering at Kansas State University, have added a new service for the radon industry.

A nationally certified and state-licensed radon chamber is now in operation at the Engineering Extension Office in the Unger Complex in Manhattan. This chamber will be used for device performance testing and spiking services in support of the radon industry. We will NOT be conducting calibration services.

The chamber was transferred from the Radon Measurements Laboratory in Colorado Springs in March and services have been

offered in Manhattan since April 9.

Bruce Snead, director of Engineering Extension, is leading this new initiative. More information is available at: ksuradonchamber.org or by contacting Bruce at radonchamber@ksu.edu

Kansas State University, as a partner in the Midwest Universities Radon Consortium, and as a contractor for KDHE, provides national radon services and projects for the U.S. EPA. Responsibilities include the National Radon Hotlines, referrals to state radon programs, radon test kit orders, radon mitigation promotion, and other technical assistance and outreach activities.



SAVE THE DATE!

On July 31, 2018 the Kansas Radon Program will be hosting the Summer **2018 Kansas Cancer Partnership meeting in Manhattan**. The meeting will be held in the Engineering Extension Office of the College of Engineering, Kansas State University (2323 Anderson Avenue, Suite 300, Manhattan KS 66502).

Registration details are available at <http://kscancerpartnership.org/>.