

Kansas Radon Program Newsletter

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

January 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/>



Kansas Radon Program

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January is **NATIONAL RADON ACTION MONTH**



On December 19, 2017, Governor Sam Brownback declared January to be Kansas Radon Action Month.



On December 19, 2017, Governor Sam Brownback declared January 2018 Kansas Radon Action Month (KRAM). Winter is an excellent time to encourage your clients to test their homes for radon gas. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency recommends actively reducing indoor radon levels when homes are confirmed with 4.0 pCi/L of radon gas or higher. Kansas State Research and Extension (KSRE) county offices and all county health departments can obtain radon test kits for distribution from the Kansas Radon Program (KRP); test kits are \$5.50 each.

Chronic, long-term radon gas exposure in homes increases the long-term risk of developing lung cancer. Residential radon gas exposure is the number one leading cause of lung cancer death in the U.S. for non-smokers. The KRP is promoting KRAM through state-wide radio and television public education announcements in association with the Kansas Association of Broadcasters (KAB) between January 15 and March 15, 2018. KRP personnel are available to schedule public education programs on request throughout winter 2018. KRP personnel are also available for phone, newspaper or live broadcast interviews. The KRP encourages all KSRE offices and county health departments to include articles in monthly newsletters or newspaper columns promoting KRAM. Visit www.kansasradonprogram.org or call (800) 693-5343 for more information.

Elevated radon levels have been found in every Kansas county. One third of Kansas radon tests returns results over 4.0 pCi/L.

Test your house today. Test. Fix. Save a Life.

Radon Stakeholders' Meeting for EPA Region 7 GET UP TO 12 HOURS KS CE

This annual meeting will take place at the Holiday Inn Des Moines Airport, Tuesday March 6. In addition to the continuing education credit for the annual meeting, the Heartland Chapter of AARST will be hosting daylong continuing education training on Monday March 5 at the same location. The continuing education courses will serve both measurement and mitigation professionals. The regional meeting also provides access to many leading radon equipment vendors in numbers only exceeded by the show at the annual symposium. The planning committee seeks presentations on houses from heck, as well as your suggestions for other speakers or content. Look for save the date messages and other contacts to plan your trip to Des Moines for this special event!

REMINDER

Upcoming Training:

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

Combined Radon Measurement and Mitigation Course and Exams

February 5—10, 2018 - Manhattan, KS

Serves all KS, NE, and NRPP Certification requirements. For content questions call Bruce Snead at 785-532-4992.

Location: Unger Complex, 2323 Anderson Ave., Suite 300, Manhattan, KS 66502
(enter from the circle drive at the back and take the elevator to the 3rd floor)

To register online, visit: <http://global.k-state.edu/conferences/current/radon-training/>

Continuing Education Courses Offered Before the EPA Region 7 Radon Stakeholders' Meeting

March 5, 2018 - Des Moines, IA

Track 1

The Revised MAMF 2017 Standard: Conducting Measurements of Radon in Buildings – 2 hours CE
Design & Installation of Soil Gas Control Systems in New Construction of Large Buildings CC-1000
– 6 hours CE

Track 2

Developing Your Radon Business in 2 Parts: Hiring/Evaluation & Marketing – 4 hours CE
Radon Certification Criteria – Tell Us What You Need to Know to Do Your Job – 4 CE

Register Online: <https://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/eventReg?oeidk=a07ef1aqjis886ee32e&oseq=&c=&ch=>

EPA Region 7 Radon Stakeholders Meeting

March 6, 2018 - Des Moines, IA

To register online, visit: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/QNYMGDF>

THE IMPORTANCE OF MAPPING RADON TESTING DATA

By the Kansas Environmental Public Health Tracking Program

Have you ever wondered what happens to the radon testing results that you submit to the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE)? We would like to share with you some of the ways we, the Kansas Environmental Public Health Tracking Program (KSEPHT), are using the indoor air radon testing data. We are part of the National Environmental Public Health Tracking Network (NEPHTN) that collects data for the purpose of advancing scientific knowledge about environmental health.

It takes a lot of time to collect, clean, analyze, and display the data. So why do we do it? Quite simply because it matters. This radon data is used by academia, researchers, real estate agents, government entities, communities, and concerned citizens to make informed decisions regarding radon levels locally and nationally. The radon testing data submitted to KDHE needs to be complete so that it can accurately represent Kansas for those that utilize the data. For example, working with the data has revealed that less than 10% of homes that test above 4 pCi/L are recorded to have been mitigated. We can use that data to emphasize the importance of mitigation in our outreach efforts and hopefully increase business for certified technicians.

Did you know approximately 19,500 radon samples were taken in the state of Kansas in 2016? Unfortunately, a total of 1,121 records were deemed unusable and had to be removed from any data analysis. Of those records 1,010 had to be removed because of an invalid address, that accounts for 90% of the total records removed! This can be easily prevented with more complete and accurate addresses.

TOP REASONS AN ADDRESS IS DEEMED INVALID

1. OMISSION OF STREET SUFFIX

e.g. 101 Flanigan, Somewhere, KS, 12345

There are both a 101 Flanigan Ct and 101 Flanigan Dr in Somewhere, KS.

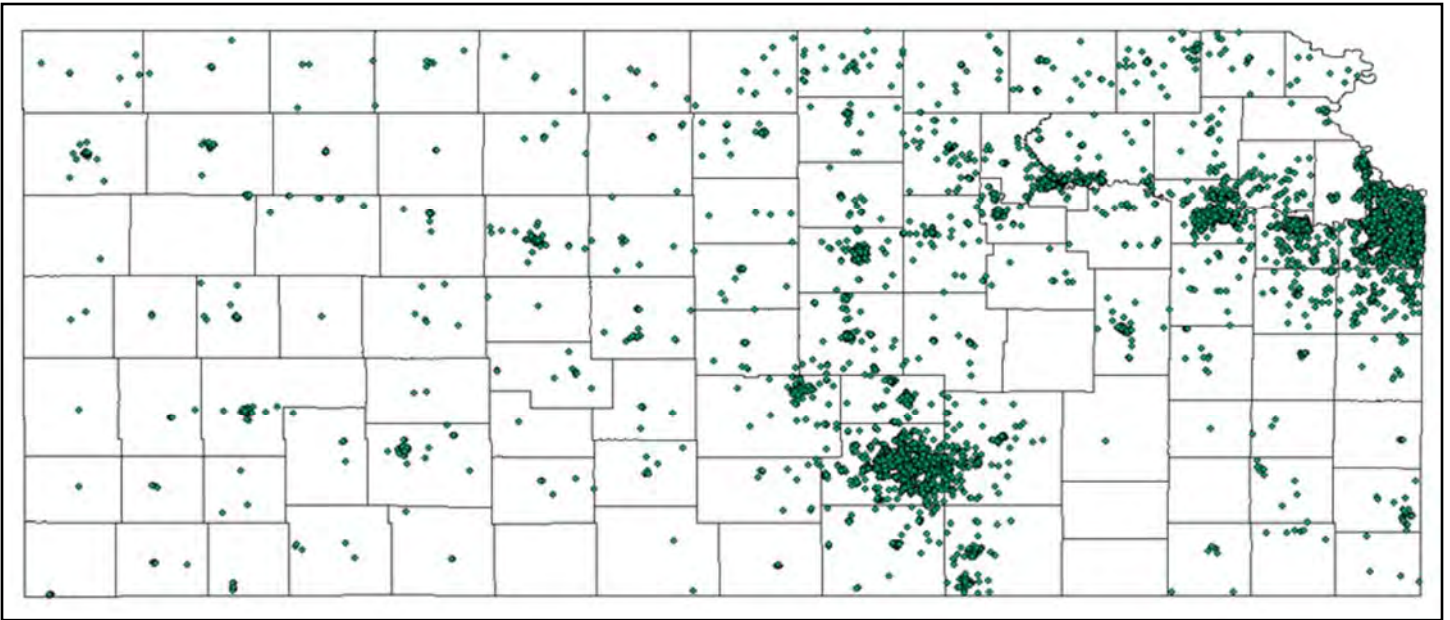
Which one is correct?

2. OMISSION OF STREET DIRECTION

e.g. 101 Sycamore St, Somewhere, KS, 12345

There are both a North and South 101 Sycamore St in Somewhere, KS.

Which one is correct?



Distribution of indoor air radon tests taken in Kansas in 2016.

A valid street address must be submitted with the radon testing data, because if we can't map it, we can't use it! We thought it would be helpful to provide some real examples of addresses we weren't able to use as well as some simple guidelines to follow to ensure a valid address is submitted.

A little extra effort goes a long way in improving data quality! Following these **4 SIMPLE GUIDELINES CAN DRAMATICALLY IMPROVE DATA QUALITY** and in turn, enhance the usability and understanding of the radon gas exposure impact in Kansas:

1. Please provide real, complete (street number, street name, city, ZIP code, state) addresses for all radon testing locations. If we are unable to determine where the test was taken, we can't map it.
2. Ensure that both the street suffix and street direction (where applicable) are included for all addresses. These two address components are essential in determining the exact location of the test. If we can't determine the location where the test was taken, we have no choice but to remove it from any data analysis. Wrong locations lead to wrong summary statistics which in turn can lead to wrong conclusions.
3. Do not use nonstandard street suffix abbreviations in the street names (e.g. using Quail Xing St to represent Quail Crossing St). This creates data errors and diminishes data quality.
4. Ensure you are using the correct street suffix abbreviations for your addresses (e.g. 'CRK' is the standard abbreviation for creek, not circle). If you are unsure what the correct suffix abbreviation is, spell it out in full. We're ok with that!

Our knowledge and understanding of radon exposure risks in Kansas will only be as good as the records we receive. Following these four simple guidelines will help ensure we have high quality data to make informed decisions with regards to protecting the health of Kansans against the risks represented by radon exposure. Your help with this is essential and greatly appreciated.

Please remember that if we can't map it then we can't use it!

RADON EDUCATION AND OUTREACH TO KANSAS SCHOOL DISTRICTS

In October, the Kansas Radon Program (KRP) attended the annual Kansas Association of Directors of Plant Facilities (KADPF) meeting and expo. The KADPF is the professional association for school district facility managers. The KRP staffed an informational booth in the expo. Bruce Snead, Director of Engineering Extension K-State University, also presented a 1-hour introduction on radon measurement and mitigation activities for schools. The KRP expects this outreach effort will extend for the next several years, with the goal being to increase the number of school districts in Kansas adopting radon measurement and mitigation strategies.



New for 2018!

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment is developing a new radon data submission form and process that will decrease the amount of time it takes to upload information and improve accuracy. Look for more information about this exciting change coming soon!

REMEMBER!

Averaging two tests? Report both results!

If you are using two charcoal test kits when performing a radon test, please make sure to report the results from each individual test. Please do not average the tests for the purposes of reporting your data to KDHE. Using the average of two side-by-side charcoal tests is appropriate when determining whether or not mitigation is needed, or when reporting the radon concentration to a homeowner. For the purposes of data collection and usage, it is important to have the results from each individual test. And please remember, averaging two radon tests is only appropriate when deploying them side-by-side. Do not use the average of two kits deployed in separate locations for any mitigation decisions or when reporting data to the homeowner or KDHE.