

District of Columbia Radon Program

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

Dr. Lakisa Blocker, Branch Chief
Keith Keemer, Environmental Specialist
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 news papers 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.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA REGISTER VOL. 65 - NO. 40 SEPTEMBER 28, 2018 - PART 2

APPENDIX F PASSIVE RADON GAS CONTROLS

AF101 SCOPE

AF103 PASSIVE RADON-RESISTANT SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

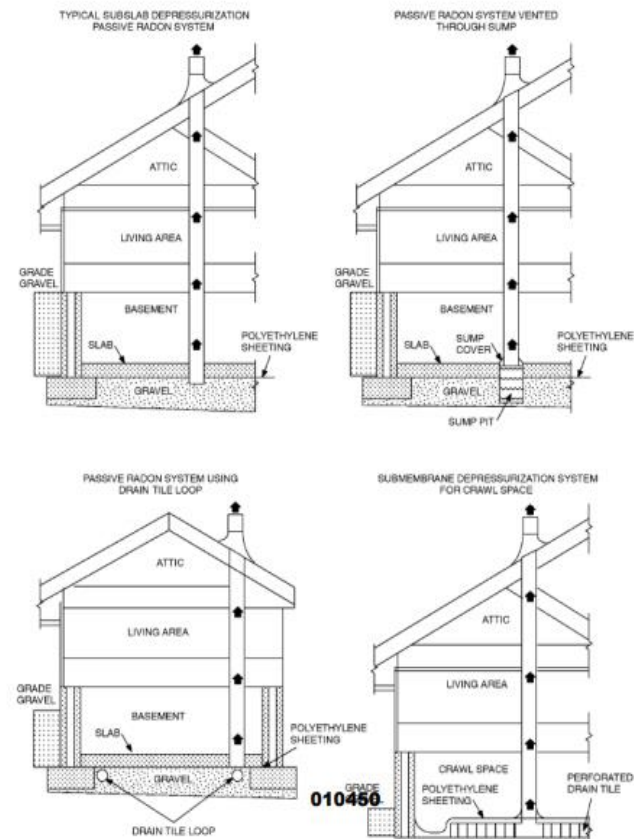
AF101 SCOPE

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.

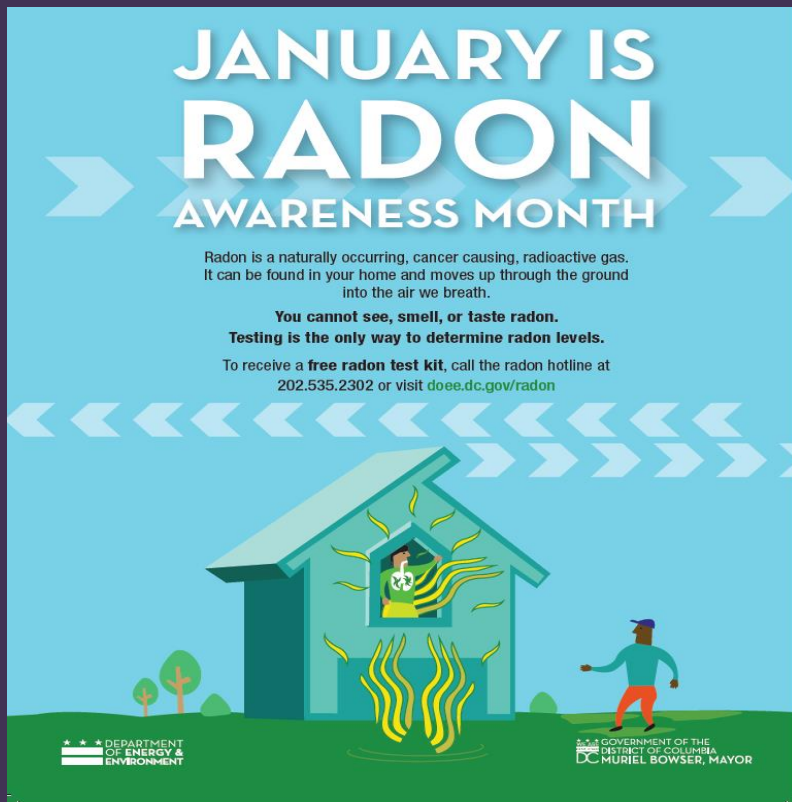
Exception: Additions less than 100 square feet.

FIGURE AF102 RADON-RESISTANT CONSTRUCTION DETAILS FOR FOUR FOUNDATION TYPES



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**

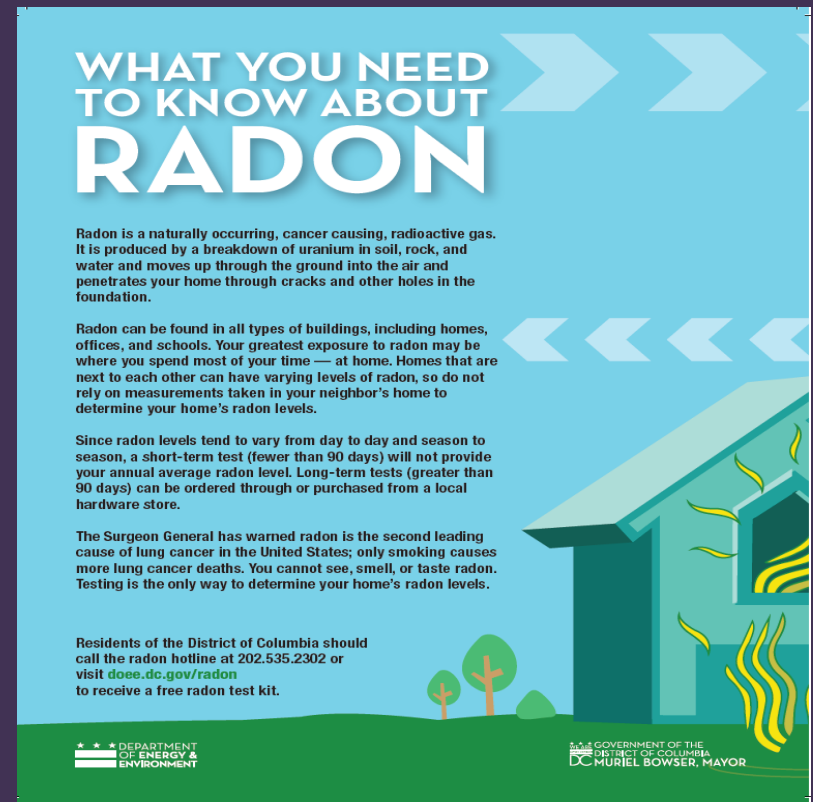
Radon is a naturally occurring, cancer causing, radioactive gas. It can be found in your home and moves up through the ground into the air we breathe.

**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 doee.dc.gov/radon

*** DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT
GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
MURIEL BOWSER, MAYOR

The poster features a stylized illustration of a house with yellow wavy lines representing radon gas entering from the ground and exiting through the roof. A person is shown running towards the house. The background is light blue with white arrow patterns.



**WHAT YOU NEED
TO KNOW ABOUT
RADON**

Radon is a naturally occurring, cancer causing, radioactive gas. It is produced by a breakdown of uranium 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 (fewer 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 doee.dc.gov/radon to receive a free radon test kit.

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Outreach & Education

NRAM 2019

DOEE Facebook page and DOH Community Health Administration Home Page



Cancer Control Plan

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.

District of Columbia
Cancer Control Plan

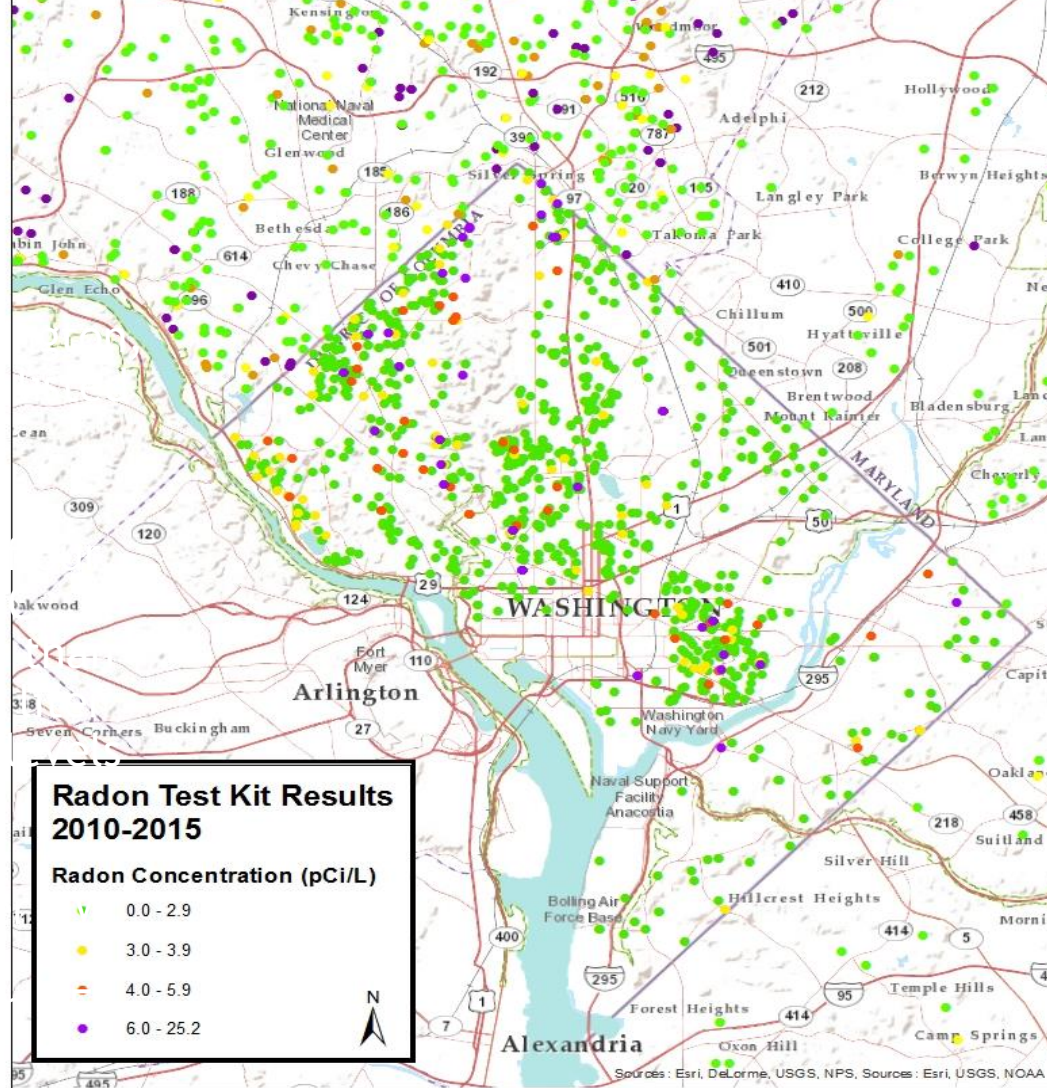
2011–2016



DC Cancer
CONSORTIUM

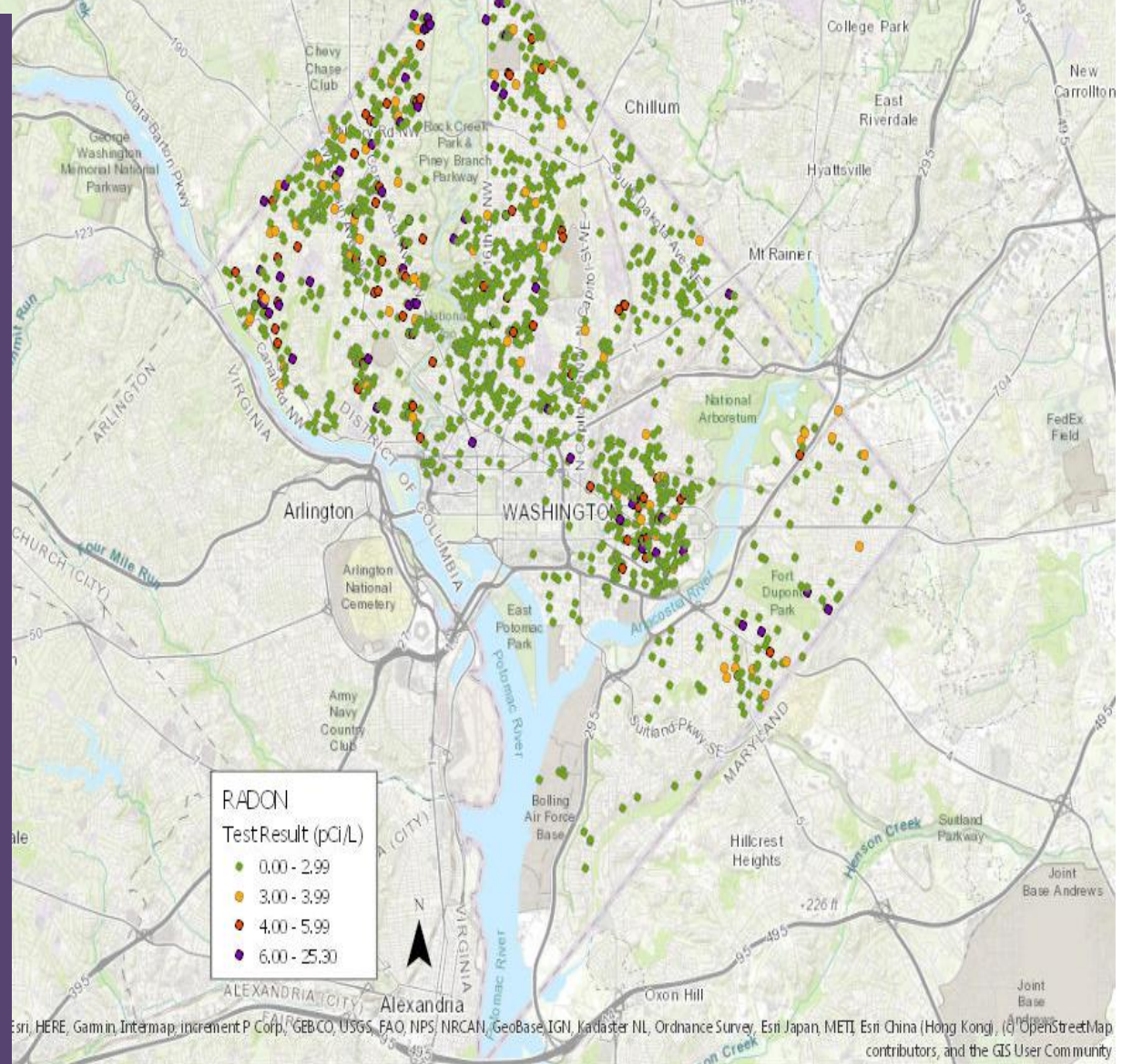
DC Radon Map 2010-2015

- ✓ Currently, EPA has Washington DC/District of Columbia as Zone 3
- ✓ Although the majority of test result data shows homes with levels lower than four (4) pico curies per liter (pCi/L), some present above 4pCi/L.
- ✓ More high levels in upper and SE
- ✓ More outreach needed in upper and SE
- ✓ New residents are interested in testing



DC Radon Map 2013-2018

- ✓ Currently, EPA has Washington, DC/District of Columbia listed as Zone 3
- ✓ Although the majority of our test result data shows DC homes with levels lower than four (4) pico curies 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



DC Radon Law

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!

