



DERBY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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David M. Nardone
Facilities Manager

Dear Parents and Staff:

According to Connecticut General Statute 10-220(d), schools are required to test for radon. Please be aware that radon testing will be conducted starting January 23, 2017 and ending on January 26, 2017 at each of our school buildings.

The State of Connecticut Department of Public Health Radon Program staff will conduct the radon testing. To test for radon in the air, small canisters containing charcoal will be placed in each of the occupied rooms that are on or below ground level and left in place for three (3) school days. You will be informed of radon test results and interpretations as soon as possible. In the unforeseen event that high radon levels are found, steps will be taken to correct the problem using methods suggested by the United States Environmental Protection Agency.

Please read the enclosed educational pamphlet describing radon and the school testing program effort. If you have further questions or concerns regarding radon, please feel free to contact the undersigned or State of Connecticut Department of Public Health Radon Program at (860) 509-7367.

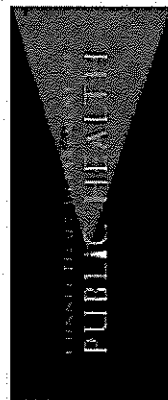
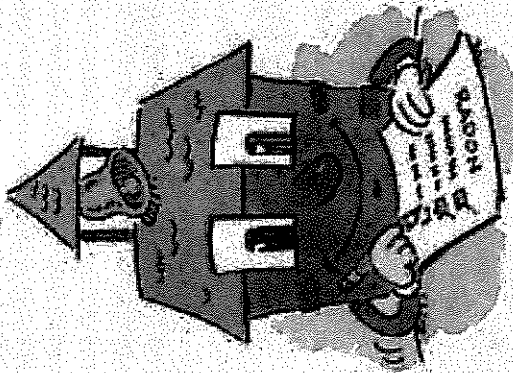
Thank you, in advance, for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

David M. Nardone
Facilities Manager
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Radon In Schools

Every School
Should take
This
Simple Test.



Keeping Connecticut Healthy
www.dph.state.ct.us

What You Should Know About Radon

Chances are you've already heard of radon - a radioactive gas that can cause lung cancer.

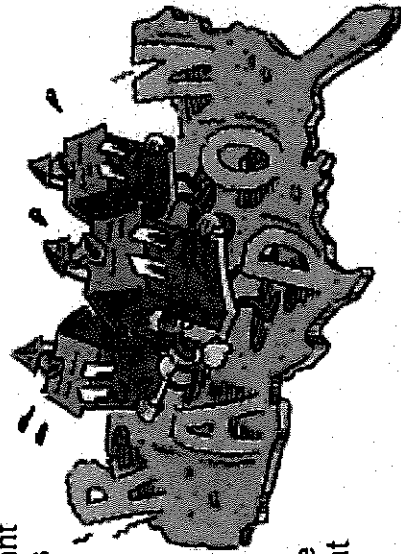
The EPA ranks indoor radon among the most serious environmental health problems facing us today. After smoking, it is the second leading cause of lung cancer in the United States causing an estimated twenty thousand (20,000) lung cancer deaths a year. It is the leading cause of lung cancer among non-smokers.

Radon is a naturally occurring gas that seeps into buildings from the surrounding soil. In some cases, well water may be a source of radon.

Radon exposure increases your risk of lung cancer. Radon gas decays into radioactive particles that can get trapped in your lungs when you breathe. As these particles break down, they release small bursts of energy. These bursts can damage lung tissue and lead to lung cancer over the course of your lifetime. Your risk of getting lung cancer from radon depends mostly on three factors:

1. The level of radon gas in the air you breathe;
2. The duration of exposure (how many hours you spend exposed);
3. Your smoking habits.

What you might not have heard - high levels of radon have been found in classrooms in a number of schools in Connecticut. Therefore, it is important that students, teachers, and parents are aware that a potential problem could exist in their school. A nationwide survey of radon levels in schools estimates that nearly one in five has at least one schoolroom with a short-term radon level above the action level of 4 pCi/L (picoCuries per liter) - the level at which EPA recommends that schools take action to reduce it.



Radon in Schools

As Easy as 1-2-3!

Step 1: Initial Testing:

- Take short-term tests

Step 2: Follow-up Testing:

- Take a second short-term test in rooms where the initial level is 4.0 pCi/L or more

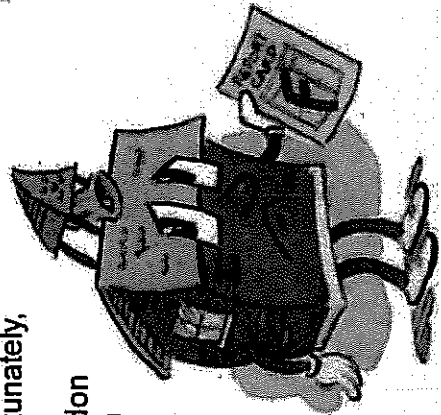
Step 3: Take action to reduce levels if:

- The average of the initial and follow-up short-term test is 4.0 pCi/L or more

Four is the magic number...

If radon levels exceed 4.0 pCi/L, action should be taken to reduce radon in your school. Fortunately,

even if your school does have high radon levels, the problem can be corrected. Proven techniques are available that reduce radon levels and lower risks of lung cancer.



Radon in Homes

School isn't the only place that you, your children, or teachers can be exposed to radon.

Many people spend more time at home, where high radon levels may pose a much greater threat to their health. Test your home for radon, if you haven't already! The Surgeon General joined the EPA in issuing a national health advisory, urging us all to test our homes for radon.

"Indoor radon gas is the second-leading cause of lung cancer in the United States and breathing it over prolonged periods can present a significant health risk to families all over the country. It's important to know that this threat is completely preventable. Radon can be detected with a simple test and fixed through well-established venting techniques."

U.S. Surgeon General, January 2005

Once again, testing is simple and inexpensive. After all, radon is one health problem nobody should have to live with - at home or at school.

In Summary

Radon

- Radon is a naturally occurring radioactive gas
- Radon usually comes from soils and rock, but can also come from well water
- Breathing in radon increases your risk of lung cancer
- Testing is the only way to find out if radon is a problem

Radon in Schools

- Testing is as easy as 1-2-3
 1. Testing must occur in all occupied spaces at or below ground level
 2. Testing must occur while school is in session
 3. If high levels of radon are found, confirm them
- Radon testing is required in public schools in Connecticut
- When high levels are found, steps will be taken to reduce radon gas in the school
- The CT Department of Public Health can provide guidance documents and information to schools, and the general public

Radon in Your Home

- You and your children probably spend more time in your home than you do at work or school
- Test your home for radon!
- The Radon Program can provide you with a list of qualified professionals