Call to Action
Reduce Radon’s Risk in America

State Policy Action and Laws build a basic foundation for nation-wide progress & innovation in radon risk reduction.
Radon -- a radioactive gas...in as many as --- 8 million American homes

"...radon is a ‘dirty bomb’ within our homes that attacks millions of people each year. Numerous cost/benefit studies have clearly indicated that both mitigation of existing homes and adopting radon resistant new construction features can be justified on a national level."

William Field, Ph.D.
Epidemiologist
Member 2008 President’s Cancer Panel
21,000 Deaths Annually in the U.S.A.
Founders of Cancer Survivors Against Radon

- They are non-funded, but they are real faces and voices of radon policy in America – the founding board members of CanSAR
- They all had or have LUNG CANCER
- Most -- Never Smoked
- All But 2 are now deceased
What is Radon?

- A naturally occurring, *radioactive gas*
- Colorless, odorless and tasteless
- Found all over the U.S. - in all types of buildings
- A death every 22 Minutes
- **21,000 Americans** (on average), die of radon induced lung cancer each year
- **70,000 Classrooms** with Radon in Excess of 4 pCi/L
  - 4 pCi/L is equal to a Half A Pack A Day for a Student
U.S. Radon Policy History

- Indoor Radon Abatement Act (1988)
  - Established the national goal to reduce indoor radon concentrations to that of the outdoors (0.4 pCi/L)
  - Set up initial standards, state program assistance, model code development, training and proficiency programs, and school radon testing
  - Gave regulatory authority to the Administrator

- Stewart McKinney Amendments (1989)
  - Required HUD to work with EPA to develop methodologies to address radon in nation’s subsidized housing supply
Major Initial U.S. E.P.A. Radon Actions

- Established Radon Guidance
  - Measurement instrument performance requirements
  - Measurement Protocols
    - Homes – initially general public, later real estate
    - Schools
  - Radon mitigation technical guidance
    - Homes
    - Schools  (70,000 unknown classrooms)

- Research and Technology Transfer – Over 24 Years
  - International Radon Symposium
  - National States Radon Program Training Meeting
Radon in America in 2012

- U.S. lung cancer mortality from radon in homes = 21,000 deaths annually
- W.H.O.’s 2009 radon risk assessment complements earlier U.S. National Academy of Science radon risk assessment
- U.S. Action Level = 4.0 pCi/L
  - WHO Reference Level = 2.7 pCi/L
  - EPA suggests action between 2 and 4 pCi/L
EPA State Radon Funding May Be Eliminated FY 2013

- EPA’s Proposed State Indoor Radon Grant Budget for FY 2013 reduced to Zero

- CanSAR Sent Its President and Officers To Washington Budget Hearings
Liz Hoffman Goes to Washington

Never Smoked – Stage 4 Lung Cancer
CanSAR Members
House Appropriations Hearing
24 Years After the IRRA Passage: Voluntary Program Successes

- Promoted radon awareness, testing, and control
  - About 20% of U.S. housing tested
  - Mitigated 1 million homes over 20 years and perhaps 2 million new homes with some form of control system
    - 670 lives per year saved (2011 statistic)
  - Model codes developed and added as optional to the International Residential Code
    - ... and added by 7 states to building codes
- Funded states $95 million since 2000
  - 2012—$8 million annually in State Grants
More U.S. homes currently exist with high radon Risk levels than in 1988 – Why?

80,000 homes a year on the average are mitigated

150,000 new homes a year on the average are built with elevated radon

70,000 Unknown Classrooms in the United States with High Levels of Radon
2011 - Radon Infrastructure in America

- Technical, Regulatory, Standards and Certification Programs Exist
  - 46 states (CRCPD), Indian Nations, territories
  - AARST Standards Consortium – ANSI & ASTM
  - Certification through NEHA – NRPP and NRSB
  - Home Inspector Associations

- Policy & Public Education efforts:
  - ALA, NCHH, AARST, ASHI, CanSAR, CRCPD, NEHA, and additional stakeholders
New Approaches to Radon Risk Reduction:

STATE LAWS
SAVING LIVES
States with no radon laws

States with certification or registration of radon professionals

States with radon laws for real estate, housing or schools.
States Move Unilaterally to Address Federal Shortcomings

- 2008 Illinois Radon Awareness Act
  Notification Trumps Disclosure - 25% increase in testing

- Renter Radon Laws
  - Maine radon testing/rental property Stat: 14. 6030D

- Childcare/Daycare Radon Testing

- Radon New Construction – Building Codes:
  - Minnesota and Maine are examples
  - Cost Effective Radon Prevention Code – RRNC 2.0
Radon as Economic Risk Management

- Two pending Class Action Law Suits have affected the realities of radon policy in the U.S.
  - New Construction
  - Multi-family Housing
- Radon Testing, Notification and Radon Building Codes can be Risk Management Techniques that prevent exposure to Banks, Builders, Realtors and Homeowners
  - Common Sense Property Risk Management
Illinois Awareness Act is Risk Management and Risk Reduction

- Disclosure laws discourage testing
- This notification law is no-fault oriented
  - Notification is still voluntary
  - Educates the Buyer at Time of Sale
  - Reduces Future Risk to Seller, Builder, Agent
  - Encourages Testing
- Increased rates of testing and mitigation after the law was enacted
Call to Action Allies
Reducing Radon Risk in America

A Federal Radon Action Plan was initiated in June 2011 and is an initiative of Federal Agencies
What’s In The New (June 2011) Federal Action Plan

MITIGATE 10 MILLION HOMES AND SAVE 6,500 LIVES ANNUALLY
Nine Federal Agencies involved
- Led by EPA
- With USDA, DOD, DOE, DOI, GSA, HHS, HUD and VA
- Eliminate preventable radon induced lung cancer 2011 – based upon current 4 pCi/L action level
- Advance *Healthy People 2020* Radon Goals
  - Mitigate 30% of 9.2 M homes with high radon
  - Build 100% of homes in high risk areas with RRNC.
The New Federal Action Plan: Missing Components & Agencies

- Non-Funded
- Policy Not Statute
- Radon in the Workplace
- Radon in Water
  - Multimedia - Clean Water Act
- Housing Finance Agency
- States May Loose FY 2013 Funding
Radon Call to Action Allies
Public Service Sector Organizations

- Core Radon Leaders Group
  - American Association of Radon Scientists & Technologists (AARST)
  - American Lung Association (ALA)
  - Conference Radiation Program Control Directors (CRCPD)
  - Cancer Survivors Against Radon (CANSAR)
  - National Center for Healthy Housing (NCHH)
Allies and the Federal Radon Action Plan

- Allies Support Action Plan Through
  - Information and Professional Resources
    - State Licensure, Rules, and Certification - CRCPD & AARST
    - State Model Regulations – CRCPD
  - Professional Standards and Codes: ASTM and ANSI-AARST
    - Multifamily Measurement & Mitigation
    - IRC and IBC Code Development – RRNC 2.0
    - New Technology and Protocol Development
    - Advice/Feedback on Public & Professional Information
State Laws – These Top 5 Will Increase Radioactive Risk Reduction in our Homes

- **Radon Notification & Disclosure – Illinois**
  - Will increase testing – lower risk for everyone

- **New Construction Codes – Minnesota**
  - RRNC 2.0 Standard – IBC and IRC codes –

- **Schools and Daycare – Mandated Testing – Illinois/Ohio**

- **Energy and Multi-family Projects**
  - Require License or Private Certification Tied to Licensing – Illinois or see Connecticut/Kansas
American Radon Policy Resources

- Existing Laws and Pending Legislation
  - NCSL and Environmental Law Institute

- Standards And Regulations
  - ANSI AARST & ASTM - Standards of Practice
  - CRCPR – Model State Regulations
  - NRPP and NRSB – Certification Agencies

- Science and Policy Experts
  - USEPA, CDC, U.S. Surgeon General, WHO, AARST, University of Iowa, U of Minnesota, Colorado U.

- Public Sector – Health Advocacy
  - ALA, CanSAR, National Center Healthy Housing
EPA Map of Radon Zones

The purpose of this map is to assist National, State, and local organizations to target their resources and to implement radon-resistant building codes. This map is not intended to be used to determine if a home in a given zone should be tested for radon. Homes with elevated levels of radon have been found in all three zones. All homes should be tested regardless of geographic location.

IMPORTANT: Consult the EPA Map of Radon Zones document (EPA-402-R-03-071) before using this map. This document contains information on radon potential variations within counties. EPA also recommends that this map be supplemented with any available local data in order to further understand and predict the radon potential of a specific area.

Zone designation for Puerto Rico is under development.
Booth 1029

RADON RADIO

RECORDING HOURS:
Across from Georgia

- Tuesday, August 7
  - 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM
- Wednesday, August 8
  - 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM
- Thursday, August
  - 9:00 AM - Noon
American Association of Radon Scientists & Technologists, Inc.

Peter Hendrick, Executive Director
director@aarst.org
NSCL Pre-conference August 6, 2012