

Radon Outreach Efforts

LPHA Update Call 12/2/25

Presented by:

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Co-Chair, Missouri Lung Cancer Coalition



Missouri Lung Cancer Coalition

We are a statewide coalition of healthcare professionals and other key stakeholders dedicated to preventing lung cancer and improving early detection of lung cancer. ***Our vision is to unify efforts to prevent and defeat lung cancer in Missouri.***

Our Mission

The Missouri Lung Cancer Coalition is dedicated to implementing programs and driving policies that support statewide collaboration for lung cancer education, prevention, and early detection. We are committed to action and reaching the underserved populations.



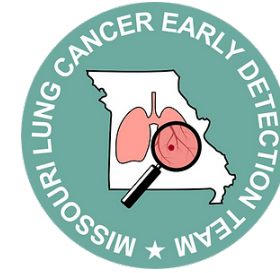
Current Work Teams



- Promote awareness of environmental risk factors (radon and others) for the public, along with resources to address them. Support Lung Cancer Awareness Month and National Radon Action Month efforts.
- Provide radon educational links and resources for the general public.
- Coordinate a radon advocacy ask by researching and building on current or past bills, creating a model policy as needed.

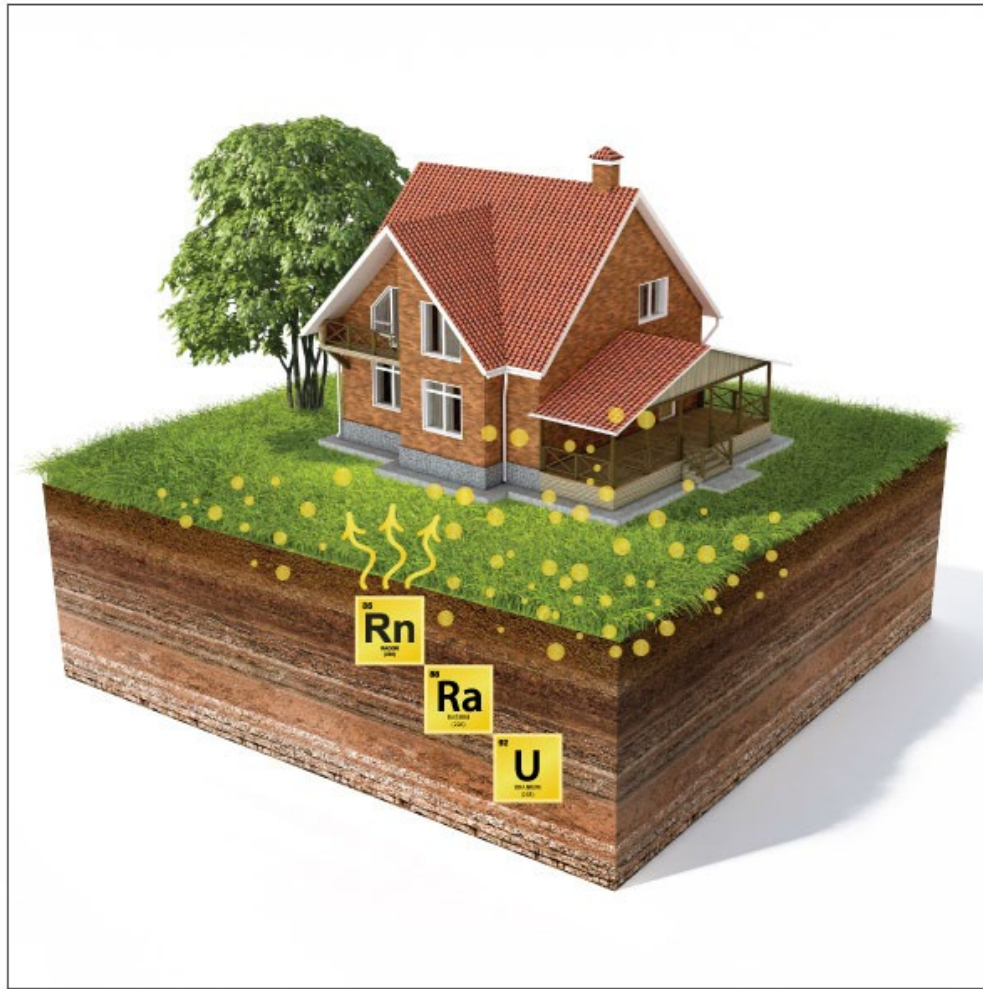


- Improve awareness of and access to evidence-based prevention and tobacco cessation services, particularly among high-risk, underserved, and rural populations.
- Increase access to evidence-based tobacco treatment training/certifications for providers and staff who provide primary care for high-risk patients in underserved and rural communities.
- Promote awareness and engage healthcare professionals in the adoption of evidence-based initiatives that increase lung cancer screening and tobacco treatment.



- Identify and develop best practices for scalable
- screening models that also overcome barriers to the delivery of high-quality lung cancer screening. Implement listening sessions on key barriers.
- Build awareness about lung cancer screening and its benefits for the general public.
- Work to ensure the integration of shared decision-making and evidence-based tobacco cessation interventions in lung cancer control efforts.

What is Radon?



Radon is a naturally occurring gas that is the byproduct of the radioactive decay of uranium found in rocks and soils throughout the world.

As it escapes from the ground, it is emitted into the air.

It enters new and old buildings through cracks and openings in floors and walls and can accumulate to dangerously high levels.

An individual's probability or risk of lung cancer is based on how high the level of radon to which they are exposed and the duration of the exposure.

What is Radon?

Radon is a radioactive Class-A carcinogen meaning there is enough data to conclude that it can cause cancer.

Radon is colorless, tasteless, and odorless.

When inhaled, radon particles become trapped in your lungs.

Over time, the particles breakdown and damage the lung tissue and alter the DNA of the cells.

Radon is the leading cause of lung cancer in people without a smoking history and the second leading cause of lung cancer overall.



Lung Cancer Statistics - National

- Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer death in the U.S. and Missouri, claiming nearly as many lives every year as breast, prostate, and pancreatic cancers combined.¹
- In 2025, it was estimated that in the U.S. there would be 226,650 new cases diagnosed and 124,730 people would die from lung cancer.¹
- Overall, the chance that a man will develop lung cancer in his lifetime is about 1 in 16; for a woman, the risk is about 1 in 17.²
- Only 1 in 4 lung cancer cases are diagnosed at an early stage when it is most treatable. The 5-year relative survival rate for localized lung cancer is 63.7%; however, over half of new cases are diagnosed when the cancer is distant (metastasized) and the 5-year survival is just 8.9%.¹ This survival rate also varies based on the type of lung cancer diagnosed.

¹NCI SEER Cancer Stats; ² American Cancer Society; ³ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention



Missouri Radon Report Card

Indoor Environments Association / AARST, 2025



MISSOURI

The Radon Report Card: Risk and Response

Population and Lung Cancer Total Population: 6,121,623



Lung Cancer Deaths:
3,559



Age-Adjusted Lung Cancer Incidence Rate
(per 100,000) 67

Lung Cancer Cases 5,408

Radon-Induced Lung Cancer Cases 850

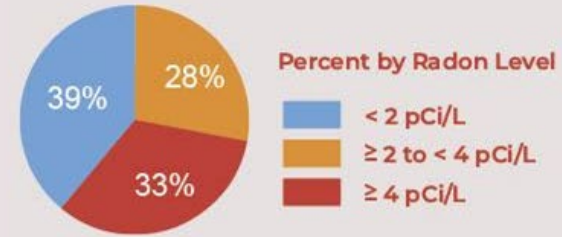
* Medical Costs (hospital, medicine, doctors) \$171,000,000

* Economic Costs (lost wages / productivity) \$179,000,000

Statewide Radon Policies

Credential Required	✗	None
Radon Standards in Effect	✗	None
Homebuyer Protection Required	✗	None
Radon System Requirement for New Homes	✗	No
Type of New Home Where Required		N/A
Standard/Code for Radon System in New Homes		N/A
School Testing Required	✗	No
Radon System Requirement for New Schools	✗	No

Buildings and Exposure Potential Pre-Mitigation Radon Tests: 36,073



Housing Units by Structure Type

	1 to 4 Units	5 or More Units	Total
Existing	2,447,370	340,463	2,787,833
New	11,956	5,504	17,460

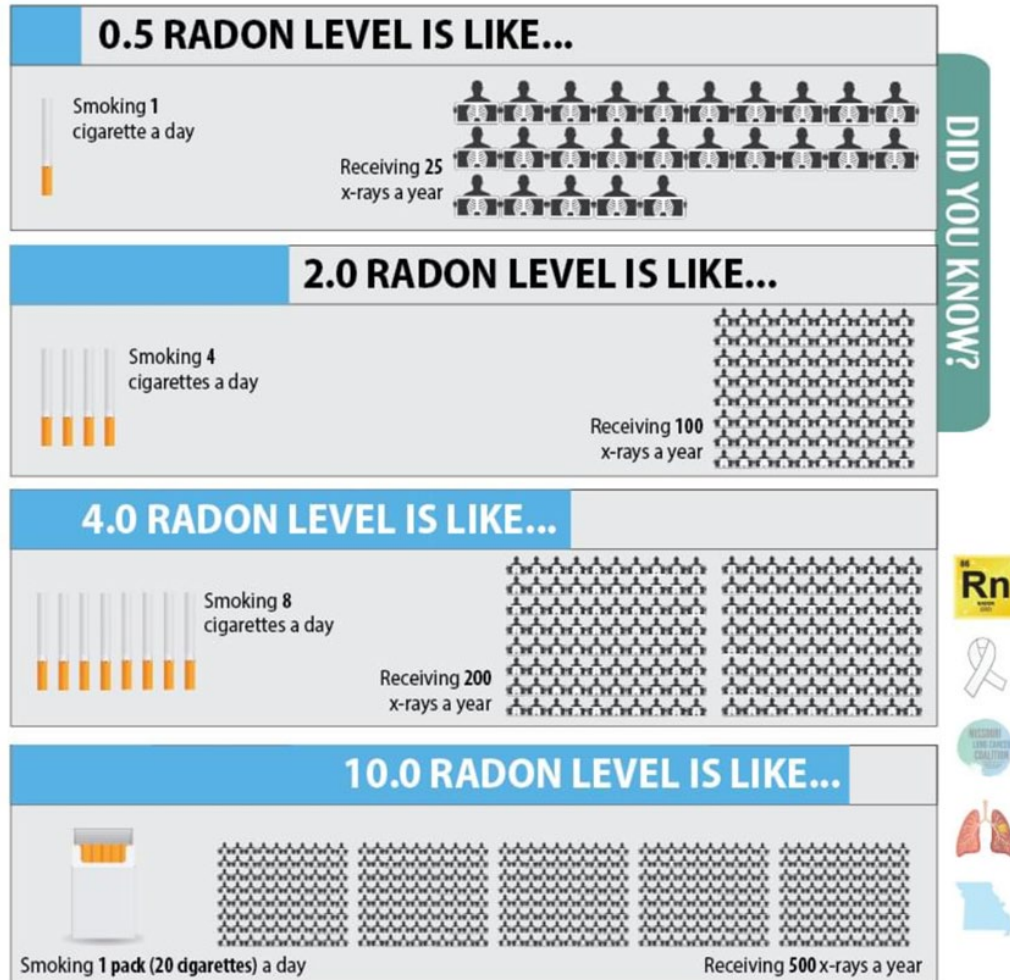
Public Schools: 2,460

EPA and ANSI-AARST Radon Measurement Standards recommend fixing a building with a radon level ≥ (above or equal to) 4 pCi/L and consider fixing it if any radon level is ≥ 2 and < (below) 4 pCi/L.

Total Population; Lung Cancer Deaths; Age-Adjusted Lung Cancer Rate (per 100,000); Lung Cancer Deaths: CDC US Cancer Statistics (2018). Estimated Radon-Induced Lung Cancer Cases: Lung Cancer Cases weighted by scaled mean radon levels; CDC Environmental Public Health Tracking Network (2003-2020). National Cancer Institute, Cancer Trends Progress Report (2022) and Productivity Costs of Cancer Mortality in the US (2008). Statewide Radon Policies: IEA staff compilation, 2025. Pre-Mitigation Radon Tests from State: CDC Environmental Public Health Tracking Network (2003-2020). Existing Housing Units and New Housing Units: US Census (2019). Public Schools: National Center for Educational Statistics (2020-2021).

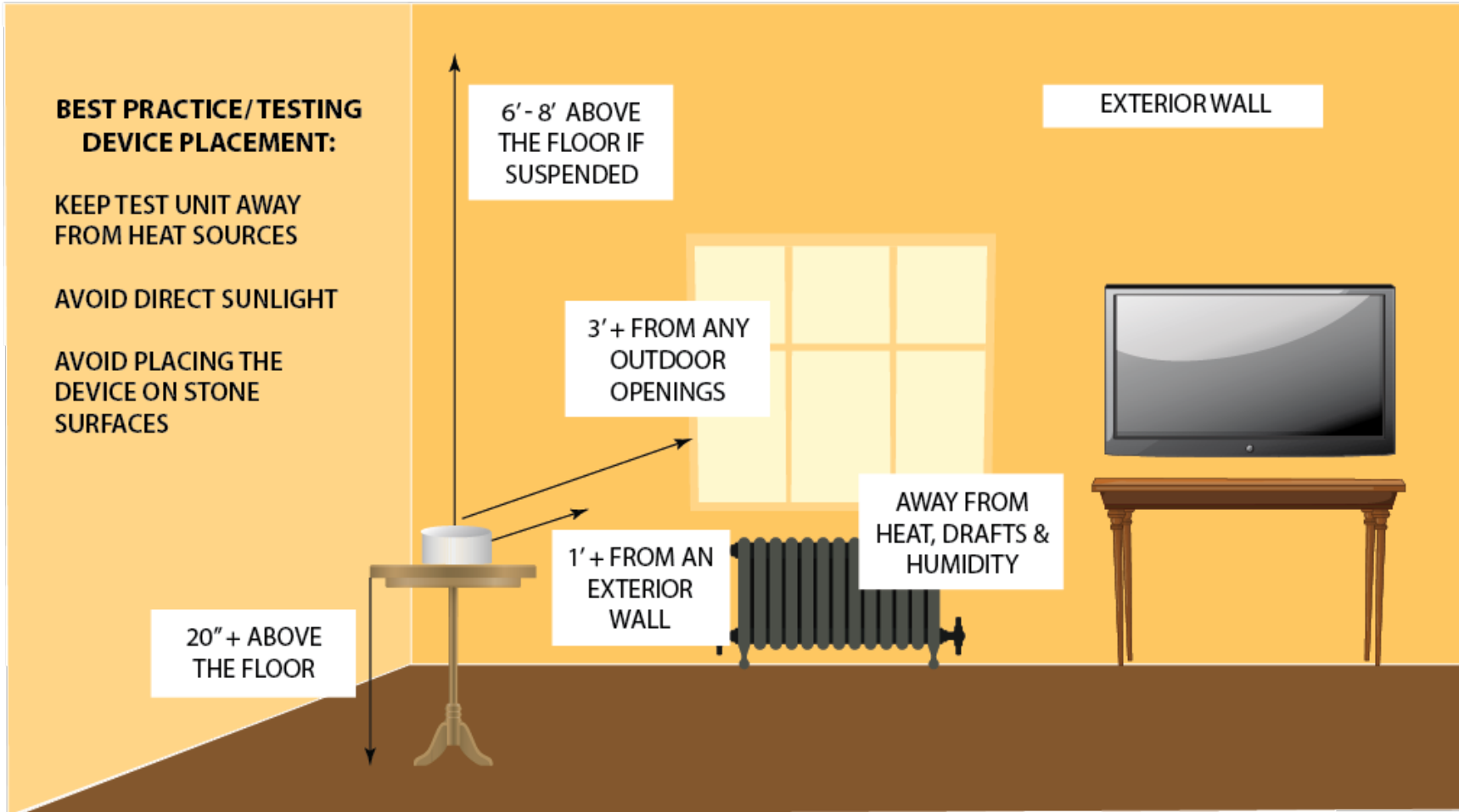


Radon & Lung Cancer



- A radon level of 4.0 pCi/L (the EPA recommended mitigation level) is comparable to smoking 8 cigarettes a day or receiving 100 x-rays / year.
- A radon level of 10.0 pCi/L is comparable to smoking a pack of cigarettes a day or receiving 500 x-rays per year.
- **Radon exposure coupled with smoking increases the risk of developing lung cancer tenfold.**
- A radon level of 474 pCi/L was recorded in Missouri, which is equivalent to smoking over 40 packs of cigarettes per day.

Radon Testing



Testing Types

- Passive vs. Active
- Short-term vs. Long-term

Know where and how to test.

Radon Bookmark Campaign

RADON THE INVISIBLE THREAT

Radon is a naturally occurring radioactive gas you can't see, smell, or taste.

Radon is the 2nd leading cause of lung cancer in the U.S and causes over 21,000 lung cancer deaths each year.

INVISIBLE RADIOACTIVE

Radon occurs in the ground naturally, but can leak into homes through cracks and openings in floors and walls.

It can be found in both new and old homes.



1 OUT OF 3 homes in Missouri have high radon levels.



UNIFYING EFFORTS TO
PREVENT AND DEFEAT
LUNG CANCER

www.MOLungCancerCoalition.org

TIME TO TAKE ACTION!

Testing is the **only** way to know if the home you live in has high levels of radon.

The EPA recommends testing every 2 years and taking action to lower high radon levels.

HOW TO TEST FOR RADON

- Purchase test kits at online retailers, home improvement stores or National Radon Program Services.
- Hire a certified radon professional to test.
- Request a free test kit from the Missouri radon program by scanning the QR code.



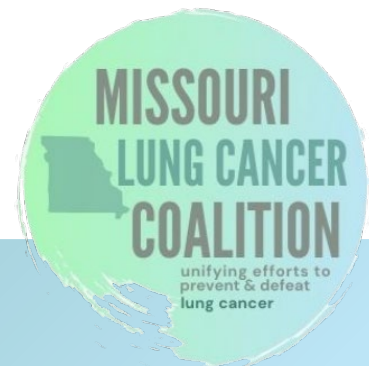
FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact the MO radon office:
radon@health.mo.gov
(866) 628-9891
(573) 751-6102

FIND A CERTIFIED RADON PROFESSIONAL

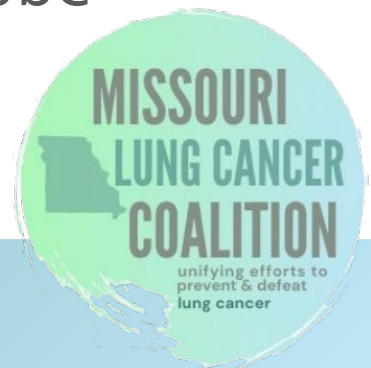
National Radon Proficiency Program
<https://nrpp.info/pro-search/>
National Radon Safety Board
<https://www.nrsb.org/find-a-pro/>

- This the 5th year for the bookmark/webinar campaign.
- Joint effort of the Missouri Lung Cancer Coalition and these key partners:
 - The American Lung Association
 - MU Health Care
 - University of Missouri Extension
- This year we are distributing 40,000 bookmarks and have added many locations from previous years.
- They are being distributed to various partners including 420 Missouri libraries.
- Plans are to make them available for free beginning January 2026 during National Radon Action Month (NRAM).

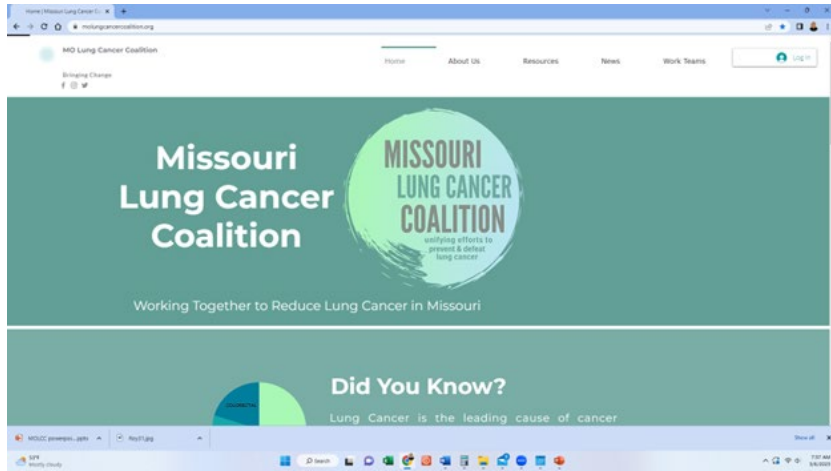


Radon Educational Webinar

- Webinar is held each January and features radon experts and lung cancer survivors who have been impacted by radon
 - Program features a basic overview of radon (what it is, how to test, how to treat) and information on how to access free test kits
- Hosted by St. Louis County Library and Missouri Lung Cancer Coalition and open to anyone in Missouri
- Recorded and available through St. Louis County Library's YouTube page following the live webinar



How to Find/Support Us



- **Website**
MOLungCancerCoalition.org
- **Facebook**
<https://www.facebook.com/MOLungCancerCoalition>
- **Twitter**
@MoLungCancerCo
- **Instagram**
<https://www.instagram.com/molungcancercoalition>
- **LinkedIn**
<https://www.linkedin.com/company/missouri-lung-cancer-coalition/>

