



Radon in Georgia

Georgia Radon Education Program (GREP) Newsletter and Outreach Report

April 1, 2015 to June 30, 2015

*GREP is funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency through the Georgia Department of Community Affairs
Office of Planning and Environmental Management*

Radon in Public Health

“Public Health” is a term that covers a wide array of health aspects. It includes things like health administration, policies, and educational and promotional campaigns for the public. The Georgia Public Health Association (GPHA) meets every year in Atlanta to plan, strategize, and learn about new studies and programs on display to improve health in Georgia. Since the focus of the Georgia Radon Program is to promote testing for radon and education the public on what it is, having a booth at the GPHA Annual Meeting was a great fit.

For two days, our program had a display table set up in a room that meeting attendees could visit during their breaks. We gave out information on what radon is, how to test for it, and how to mitigate if needed to many public health advocates and employees from all over the state. We also handed out kits to those who were very excited and interested in testing their homes.

Representation at Government Meetings

One of the Georgia Radon Program’s goals is to increase our presence at local government meetings, and we are off to a great start. During this quarter, with the help of the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA), we had informational booths at two annual government meetings: the Association of County Commissioners of Georgia (ACCG) and the Georgia Municipal Association (GMA). The ACCG annual meeting was in April, while the GMA meeting was in June. Both were held in Savannah.

At both of these events we were able to interact with many government officials and their families, many of whom had not test their homes for radon. We had informational flyers to hand out along with our educational extenders, some of which acted as prizes for



our game. We had our colorful spinning wheel at our booth equipped with radon trivia questions. Individuals who came up to our booth were asked to spin the wheel and answer a question for a prize. Having a presence at events like these can have a large impact on testing for radon across the state, which is what we hope to see.



Pictured above: Adriane Wood (DCA) educating GMA attendees on the importance of testing for radon.

Pictured left: Georgia Radon Program’s booth at GMA, nearly identical to the set up at ACCG

GEORGIA RADON EDUCATORS AT WORK

RRNC Training

Radon Resistant New Construction (RRNC) is not a new concept, but it is one that we do not see as much as we in the radon world would like. RRNC is a proactive method to reduce the amount of radon that enters a building even before there is a known problem. Essentially, trained professionals install a passive mitigation system (similar to a typical mitigation system but without a fan) while the building is still being constructed. On their own, these passive mitigation systems can reduce the amount of radon entering a building. However, sometimes radon levels are still elevated, or higher than desired, after construction. If this is the case, the passive mitigation system can easily be turned into an active system by a certified and trained professional.

We encourage people to build with RRNC for a variety of reasons: (1) it can preemptively reduce the amount of radon that enters the new building; (2) it is fairly inexpensive to install; and (3) it is more cost efficient in the long run to install a passive system at the time of construction. Builders who install passive mitigation systems set themselves apart as greener and healthier builders.

Recently, unincorporated Gwinnett County adopted RRNC building codes. This means that each home and building constructed in unincorporated Gwinnett County will now be built with RRNC methods. This is very exciting news! In support of this new initiative, DCA and the UGA Radon Program coordinated a RRNC Training Class with the regional training center at Rutgers University. The training brought together county building officials, builders, contractors, and home inspectors. Our aim was to help them learn even more about RRNC, fully understand the codes, and to help them get in contact with one another and resources that could be helpful to them. A local certified mitigator and trainer, Matt Koch with Southern Radon Reduction, taught the class at the UGA Gwinnett Campus.

Around 20 people participated in the class. Although this is just one part of a county that has adopted the RRNC building codes, it is still an exciting step in the right direction. We hope that with their adoption and involvement we begin to see the adoption of RRNC in the incorporated areas of Gwinnett County, as well as throughout the state.



Radon Mitigator Matt Koch teaching the class.



Radon Outreach

Program Contacts & Media Impressions April Through June 2015

PROGRAM CONTACTS	Total
Programs-Meetings	2
Participants	26
Materials Distributed	30
Exhibits-Events	3
Participants	930
Materials Distributed	400
OTHER CONTACTS	Total
Total Contacts	995
Medical Professionals	10
Home Builders	20
Realtors	5
Consumer Contacts	960
KIT USAGE DATA	Total
Kits Distributed	226
Results Received	115
> 4.0 pCi/L	31
< 4.0 pCi/L	76
Incomplete	8
% > 4.0 pCi/L	29%
Highest Level	37.4 pCi/L
MITIGATION DATA	Total
RRNC ²	
Mitigations ³	
Mitigation Referrals	85
MEDIA IMPRESSIONS	Total
Radio	
Listeners	
Television	1
Viewers	150,000
Newspaper	
Circulation	
Newsletter	
Distribution	
Local Web Hits ⁴	
GA SIRG Web Hits ⁵	1679
TOTAL IMPRESSIONS	153,630

¹Other includes radon education/results of former educators & county FACS/4-H Agents.

²Reported quarterly by Southface

³Mitigation & RRNCs completed by Certified Mitigators are reported annually.

⁴Began tracking Jan 1, 2010

⁵Web hits for www.UGAradon.org are shared equally among the radon educators.

Radon Outreach

Program Contacts & Media Impressions April 2003 through June 2015

PROGRAM CONTACTS	Hall	DeKalb	Gwinnett	Elbert	Walton	Southface	Other ¹	Totals
Programs / Meetings	293	187	266	193	624	1,084	27	2,674
Participants	8,910	4,335	15,112	3,866	23,080	17,946	2,099	75,348
Materials Distributed	16,082	11,441	15,887	6,595	46,547	9,184	75	105,811
Exhibits or Events¹	142	86	175	63	175	67	31	739
Participants	45,486	6,558	146,287	11,978	161,033	13,798	2,996	388,136
Materials Distributed	99,950	8,947	50,145	8,057	26,470	1,296	1,346	196,211
OTHER CONTACTS	Hall	DeKalb	Gwinnett	Elbert	Walton	Southface	Other	Totals
Total Direct Contacts	5,973	1,385	1,216	475	5,507	12,268	52	26,876
Medical professionals	551	51	242	56	905	0	24	1,829
Home builders	364	29	43	45	378	10,082	0	10,941
Realtors	555	93	85	25	209	836	28	1,831
Consumer Contacts	4,503	1,212	846	349	4,015	1,350	0	12,275
KIT USAGE DATA	Hall	DeKalb	Gwinnett	Elbert	Walton	Southface	Other	Totals
Kits Distributed	8,814	4,271	7,853	2,893	12,183	5,192	4,600	45,806
Test Results Received	3,272	1,613	2,434	1,354	6,309	1,060	849	16,891
Highest Level	49.9	31.3	54.4	44.0	85.8	77.1	0.0	85.8
MITIGATION DATA	Hall	DeKalb	Gwinnett	Elbert	Walton	Southface	Other	Totals
Mitigation Referrals	1,164	249	361	91	751	412	0	3,028
Mitigations ²					5,383			
RRNC ³					1,480			
MEDIA IMPRESSIONS	Hall	DeKalb	Gwinnett	Elbert	Walton	Southface	Other	Totals
Radio Outreach	66	11	8	4,278	137	1	2	4,503
Listening Audience	4,847,000	3,670,000	10,000	4,020,000	2,693,000	2,000	377,000	15,619,000
TV Outreach	140	75	713	8	279	2	437	1,654
Viewing Audience	25,170,100	12,733,000	73,981,740	15,080	27,894,200	1,328,000	8,385,000	149,507,120
Newspaper Outreach	48	4	19	13	102	0	6	192
Circulation	1,429,400	3,223,000	1,304,817	154,800	3,545,449	0	69,500	9,726,966
Newsletter Outreach	50	2	14	17	56	9	16	164
Distribution	29,300	249	16,746	9,215	1,832,280	903,048	6,054	2,796,892
Local Web Hits ⁵	894	1,044	20,600	0	12,000	0	0	34,538
State Web Hits ⁶	62,172					51,296	0	113,468
TOTAL IMPRESSIONS	31,489,128	19,639,727	75,346,337	4,211,529	35,989,363	2,284,344	8,837,554	177,797,984

¹Other includes radon education/results of former radon educators and county FACS/4-H Agents.

²Reported quarterly by Southface only.

³Certified GA mitigators reported their mitigations & RRNCs annually through 2012.

⁴Began tracking Jan. 1, 2010

⁵UGA Radon Program web hits are shared equally among the 5 radon educators

RADON RESOURCES & CONTACTS

Georgia Indoor Radon Grant Administration

Brain Johnson, Office Director

Georgia Department of Community Affairs— Office of Planning and Environmental Management

60 Executive Park South NE, Atlanta, GA 30329

404-679-3105

Adriane Wood, Grant Coordinator

adriane.wood@dca.ga.gov

Georgia Department of Community Affairs—Office of Planning and Environmental Management

479 Cherry Street, Macon, GA. 31201

478-319-0433

Radon Hotline Numbers

National Hotlines

Kansas State University / EPA

1-800-SOS-RADON (1-800-767-7236)

9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday – Friday

National Hispanic Indoor Air Quality

1-800-725-8312

The Radon Fix It Line: (National Safety Program)

1-800-644-6999

Get live help for your radon questions

1-800-55RADON (557-2366)*

Radon Fix-It Hotline—General information on reducing radon levels

1-800-644-6999*

Safe Drinking Water Hotline

1-800-426-4791

** Operated by Kansas State University in partnership with EPA*

The Georgia Radon Education Program is funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency through the Georgia Department of Community Affairs Office of Planning and Environmental Management, in partnership with the University of Georgia College of Family & Consumer Sciences Cooperative Extension.

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