



RADON IN GEORGIA

Georgia Radon Education Program (GREP) Newsletter and Outreach Report

October 1, 2014 to December 31, 2014

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

Free to Breathe 5K

One of the great parts of having a long-running program is being able to participate in and partner with various events each year. The annual Free to Breathe 5K Lung Cancer Partnership Event is one of these events. This year, it was held in November at Sandy Creek Park in Athens and had around 500 people in attendance. Radon Educator Becky Chenhall and Graduate Student Kathryn Holland attended the event and had an exhibit booth on radon where they distributed kits and information on the lung cancer-causing gas.



Becky and Kathryn spoke with many of the 5K participants about the importance of testing their homes for radon. Several of the participants had family members who had been diagnosed with lung cancer. Out of the 25 complimentary radon test kits that were distributed, nearly half of them went to participants who either had a family member with lung cancer or had a family history of the disease.

The UGA Radon Exhibit was situated between the Athens Regional Chest Center and

Athens Pulmonary exhibits, which was a great location. Since our program has worked with these two groups in the past, they were all able to talk and plan to have more interaction and partnership in the future. The Free to Breathe 5K is a wonderful event and a great way for us to educate people about radon and to encourage them to test their homes



GEORGIA RADON EDUCATORS AT WORK

Radon Mitigations on the Rise

As a program that strives to educate the public on a dangerous cancer-causing gas, we thoroughly enjoy hearing that individuals are taking the necessary steps to decrease their exposure to radon. Testing a home for radon is the first step. Fixing the elevated level (if that is the case) is the next, highly important step.

Each year, the UGA Radon Program collects data on the number of mitigations done throughout the state. Certified Mitigations Specialists were found and contacted through the lists provided by National Radon Proficiency Program (NRPP) and the National Radon Safety Board (NRSB). The reported number of mitigations for the year was 2,413. This is the highest number our program has seen after contacting mitigators.

Because the state of Georgia does not have laws or regulations on who can and cannot install mitigation systems, it is very likely that even more systems were installed without our knowledge throughout this time period. However, the certified mitigators were the individuals we were able to contact. We also strongly emphasize and recommend using a certified mitigator to anyone who is looking to reduce the level of radon in their home.

It was exciting to see how many mitigations were done during this time frame. It's one thing to see a large number of people testing their homes, but it's even better when we see people taking action to make their homes healthier.

Radon Measurement Training Course Offered in October

In October, the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) and the UGA Radon Program held a Radon Measurement Training Course in Atlanta. This was a two-day course that concluded with an exam participants could take in order to be a Certified Measurement Specialist. This class covers the chemical and physical properties of radon, how to test for it, how to interpret test results, and different types of tests that can be used.

Adriane Wood (DCA) and Gabrielle Walters (UGA) helped to organize and facilitate the class that was taught by an educator from the Rutgers Training Center in New Jersey. The class had 22 participants from various states. Offering this class provided a time for individuals to become certified and network with others in their field.

RADON OUTREACH

Program Contacts & Media Impressions October through December 2014

PROGRAM/CONTACTS	Hall/Clarke	Walton	Totals
PROGRAMS-MEETINGS	3	3	6
Participants	80	33	113
Materials Distributed	450	160	610
EXHIBIT-EVENTS	2	2	4
Participants	1050	650	1700
Materials Distributed	1180	170	1350
OTHER CONTACTS	Hall/Clarke	Walton	Totals
TOTAL CONTACTS	97	43	140
Medical Professionals	13	5	18
Home Builders	-	-	-
Realtors	4	2	6
Consumer Contacts	80	36	116
KIT USAGE DATA	Hall/Clarke	Walton	Totals
Kits Distributed	89	76	165
Results Received	58	53	111
≥ 4 pCi/L	17	18	35
< 4 pCi/L	41	33	74
Incomplete	-	2	2
% ≥ pCi/L	29.3%	35.0%	32.0%
Highest Level	34.2 pCi/L	50.7 pCi/L	50.7 pCi/L
MITIGATION DATA	Hall/Clarke	Walton	Totals
RRNC ²			
Mitigations ³			
Mitigation Referrals	25	20	45
MEDIA IMPRESSIONS	Hall/Clarke	Walton	Totals
Radio			
Listeners			
Television		1	1
Viewers		30000	30000
Newspaper	2	1	3
Circulation	79000	30000	109000
Newsletters			
Distribution			
Local Web Hits ⁴			
GA SIRG Web Hits ⁵	1714		
TOTAL IMPRESSIONS	79000	60000	140714

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 January 1, 2010

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

RADON OUTREACH

Program Contacts & Media Impressions April 2003 through December 2014

PROGRAM CONTACTS	Hall	DeKalb	Gwinnett	Elbert	Walton	Southface	Other ¹	Totals
Programs / Meetings	284	187	266	193	619	1,084	27	2,660
Participants	8,864	4,335	15,112	3,866	22,992	17,946	2,099	75,214
Materials Distributed	15,752	11,441	15,887	6,595	46,347	9,184	75	105,281
Exhibits or Events¹	137	86	175	63	174	67	31	733
Participants	44,025	6,558	146,287	11,978	160,833	13,798	2,996	386,475
Materials Distributed	99,200	8,947	50,145	8,057	26,455	1,296	1,346	195,446
OTHER CONTACTS	Hall	DeKalb	Gwinnett	Elbert	Walton	Southface	Other	Totals
Total Direct Contacts	4,798	1,385	1,216	475	5,447	12,268	52	25,641
Medical professionals	511	51	242	56	905	0	24	1,789
Home builders	344	29	43	45	378	10,082	0	10,921
Realtors	470	93	85	25	209	836	28	1,746
Consumer Contacts	3,473	1,212	846	349	3,955	1,350	0	11,185
KIT USAGE DATA	Hall	DeKalb	Gwinnett	Elbert	Walton	Southface	Other	Totals
Kits Distributed	8,240	4,271	7,853	2,893	12,082	5,192	4,600	45,131
Test Results Received	2,958	1,613	2,434	1,354	6,242	1,060	849	16,510
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	1,034	249	361	91	751	412	0	2,898
Mitigations²	5,383							
RRNC³	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	139	75	713	8	274	2	437	1,648
Viewing Audience	25,020,100	12,733,000	73,981,740	15,080	27,839,200	1,328,000	8,385,000	149,302,120
Newspaper Outreach	47	4	19	13	101	0	6	190
Circulation	1,404,000	3,223,000	1,304,817	154,800	3,515,449	0	69,500	9,671,566
Newsletter Outreach	50	2	14	17	55	9	16	163
Distribution	29,300	249	16,746	9,215	1,639,280	903,048	6,054	2,603,892
Local Web Hits⁵	894	1,044	20,600	0	12,000	0	0	34,538
State Web Hits⁶	57,362					51,296	0	108,658
TOTAL IMPRESSIONS	31,312,766	19,638,765	75,345,375	4,210,567	35,710,401	2,284,344	8,837,554	177,339,774

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.

UGA Radon Program Team

Dr. Pamela R. Turner, Director

706-542-9165

prturner@uga.edu

Gabrielle Walters

706-583-0602

gab589@uga.edu

www.ugaradon.org

Like us on Facebook!

<https://www.facebook.com/ugaradon?fref=ts>

Becky Chenhall

770-267-1324

chenhall@uga.edu