



MINUTES OF BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

February 5, 2020

Call to Order: Meeting was called to order by Chair Peer at 6:00 p.m.

Board of Health Members Present: Chair Peer, Supervisor Rynes, Supervisor Homan, Supervisor Gramke, Dr. Somaraju, Dr. Meyers, and Mr. Gresens.

Board of Health Members Absent: Dr. Winter.

Staff Members Present: Rick Wietersen – Environmental Health Director; Kelsey Cordova – Community Health Education Coordinator; Jared Hergert – Environmental Health Specialist; and Jessica Turner – Administrative Services Supervisor.

Others Present: Josh Smith – Rock County Administrator; Terri Carlson – Rock County Risk Manager.

Adopt Agenda

Supervisor Rynes made a motion to adopt the agenda. Supervisor Homan seconded the motion. MOTION APPROVED.

Approval of Minutes – 1/8/2020

Supervisor Gramke made a motion to approve the minutes of the 1/8/2020 Board of Health meeting. Dr. Somaraju seconded the motion. MOTION APPROVED.

Citizen Participation

None at this time.

New Business

Administrative Division

Review of Payments

The Board reviewed the Health Department's December and January payments in the amount of \$7,670.95 and \$8,849.10 respectively.

Transfer of Funds over \$5,000

None at this time.

Health Department Report

In the News

Mr. Wietersen announced that the Rock County Public Health Department (RCPHD) has officially been designated a Level III health department under the new 140 Rule. He stated that the review process has changed due to changes to the rule. He thanked the Board for support and participation.

Surveillance

Mr. Wietersen told the Board that as of this morning there have been 24,000 confirmed cases of the 2019-novel Coronavirus in over 20 countries with 494 deaths. The United States has 12 cases with multiple tests pending from various states. He said there has been a confirmed case in Wisconsin. Mr. Wietersen stated that the virus has been confirmed to be transmittable person to person and has been declared a reportable disease. According to Mr. Wietersen, there have been 10 times more cases of Coronavirus than there were of SARS in the same time period. He also stated that it is still low risk with symptoms similar to influenza. Dr. Somaraju gave some more insight into the virus. She stated that coronaviruses exist in every species of animals. This coronavirus is a mutation thought to be a combination of reptilian and mammalian strains. Dr. Somaraju said once the virus mutates in species, it then can infect humans and humans can transmit it. She said there are thousands of coronaviruses that we have been exposed to and have built up a herd immunity. This new mutation is one our immune system has never been exposed to and does not have an existing immunity. Mr. Wietersen informed the Board that RCPHD staff is monitoring the situation and sitting in on updates from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS). He told them that we are at peak flu season stressed that flu is currently a bigger risk. Supervisor Gramke asked about a vaccine for Coronavirus. Dr. Somaraju said they need to know more about it and there will probably not be one for this current outbreak. Chair Peer asked about how numbers compare between flu and 2019-novel Coronavirus. Mr. Wietersen replied that there have been 9000 confirmed cases of flu in Wisconsin with 1200 hospitalizations and 26 deaths. He added that 90% of the 2019-novel Coronavirus cases have been in China. Chair Peer asked if reporting is faster for 2019-novel Coronavirus than it was for SARS. Mr. Wietersen replied that currently the only lab that can test is at the CDC. Dr. Somaraju added that the CDC recently expanded the testing to include stool and urine. Supervisor Gramke asked if a paper mask is effective to prevent infection. Dr. Somaraju said it is effective and stated that there is a shortage. She suggested putting a scarf over the nose and mouth. Mr. Wietersen reminded everyone that there is still time to get a flu shot.

Community Events/Outreach

Mr. Wietersen told the Board that Ms. Baumann, Environmental Health Specialist, has been working with Janesville Police Department on a medication round up for pets to take place at Arftic Art. Dr. Meyers remarked that they are accepting liquids. Mr. Wietersen stated that drop boxes are located at most police departments, but some are not able to accept liquids. The off site collection allows them to collect liquid medications.

Budget

No updates.

Personnel

Mr. Wietersen announced that former Public Health Nurse Janalyn Eisele is returning to the RCPHD and will be starting on February 24th. He told the Board that they will be reviewing applicants and interviewing for the

following open positions in a few weeks: Health educator, Public Health Nurse, and Public Health Supervisor. He said the part time Environmental Health Specialist posting ends this Friday.

Community Health Assessment Update

Ms. Cordova introduced herself and gave a brief overview of the Community Health Assessment. She said the RCPHD collects qualitative and quantitative data from a variety of sources since health changes all the time and data sources are not always current. The RCPHD launched a Community Health Assessment survey electronically. There will also be Community Conversations to target different demographic communities. This assessment is required every five years. The RCPHD partners with the Health Equity Alliance of Rock County to create a community informed and owned document. This document becomes the five-year Community Health Improvement Plan. Ms. Cordova encouraged the Board members to take the survey and asked them to help promote it in their communities and with anyone who lives, works, or plays in Rock County.

Radon Presentation

Mr. Hergert gave a PowerPoint presentation on Radon in Rock County (see attached).

The Board discussed conditions that can affect radon levels.

Mr. Wietersen said that moving forward RCPHD can work with builders on new constructions to incorporate radon protection into construction. This method is much more cost effective than putting in a mitigation system later.

Communications and Announcements

None at this time.

Executive Session: Performance Evaluation – Health Officer

Per Section 19.85(1)(c), Wis. Stats., Supervisor Gramke and Supervisor Rynes made a motion to enter into executive session at 6:52 p.m. by roll call vote (7-yes 0-no). MOTION APPROVED.

Supervisor Rynes and Supervisor Homan made a motion to exit executive session at 7:42 p.m. MOTION APPROVED.

Adjournment

Supervisor Homan made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Supervisor Rynes seconded the motion. MOTION APPROVED. Meeting adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jessica Turner, Recorder

Not Official Until Approved by the Board of Health

Radon in Rock County

ROCK COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT
FEBRUARY 5, 2020

What is radon?

Odorless, colorless, radioactive gas

Comes from the natural decay of uranium in soil and rocks

Seeps into buildings through cracks, gaps and other openings in contact with soil

Increases your risk of getting lung cancer later in life. Risk increases with exposure and time.

What is the risk?

EPA estimates 21,000 lung cancer deaths per year can be attributed to radon, about 12% of all lung cancer deaths

Living with 10 pCi/L of radon for a lifetime carries a similar risk to smoking a pack of cigarettes per day.

Lung cancer is the leading cause of U.S. cancer deaths Only a 16% 5 year survival rate

Smoking compounds the risk

Lifetime exposure at 4 pCi/L:
 Never smokers: 7 in 1,000 could get lung cancer
 Smokers: 62 in 1,000 could get lung cancer

Category	Deaths per Year
RADON*	21,000
Drunk Driving	17,400
Falls in the Home	8,000
Drownings	3,900
Home Fires	2,800

EPA - Citizens Guide to Radon

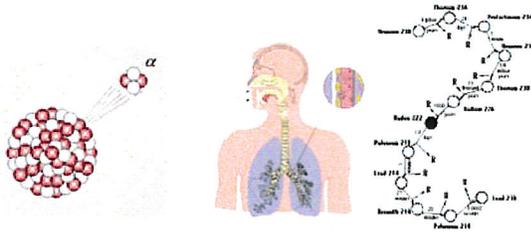
Sources of Radiation Exposure

Source	Radon & Thoron	Internal	Consumer	Occupational	Industrial	Space	Conventional Radiography/Fluoroscopy	Interventional Fluoroscopy	Nuclear Medicine	Medical	Background
Units	mSv	mSv	mSv	mSv	mSv	mSv	mSv	mSv	mSv	mSv	mSv
Region (United States)	2.28 mSv	1.47 mSv	0.77 mSv	0.5 mSv	0.1 mSv	0.1 mSv	0.5 mSv	0.2 mSv	0.1 mSv	3.1 mSv	3.1 mSv
World (International)	2.28 mSv	1.47 mSv	0.77 mSv	0.5 mSv	0.1 mSv	0.1 mSv	0.5 mSv	0.2 mSv	0.1 mSv	3.1 mSv	3.1 mSv

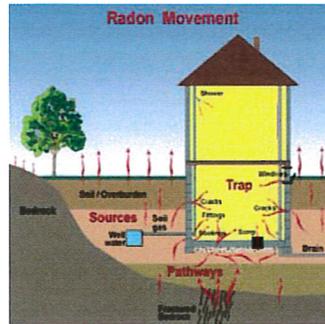
Source: National Council on Radiation Protection & Measurements, Report No. 160

How does it cause lung cancer?

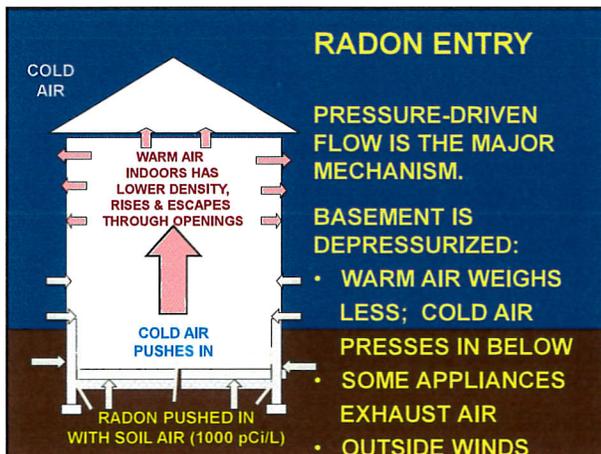
Radon gas decay products emit Alpha, Beta and Gamma radiation. Due to alpha radiations ionizing capacity it is the most damaging to DNA. This in turn makes the decay products polonium-218 and polonium-214, which are the main alpha emitters the greatest health risk.



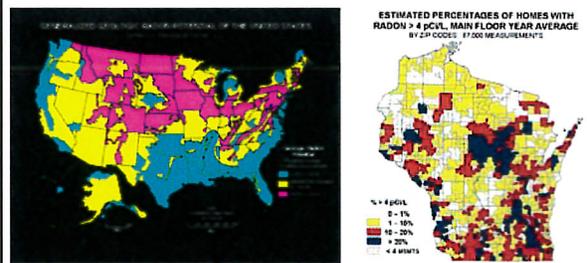
How does radon get into your home?

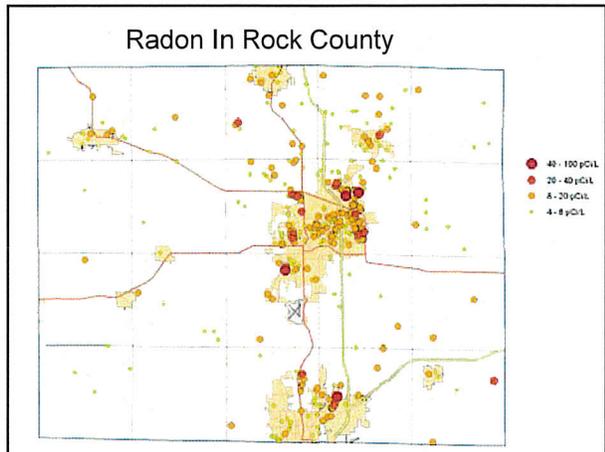


- Gap between slab and footing
- Sump openings
- Cracks
- Pipe penetrations
- Floor drains
- Bare soil crawl spaces
- Well water (not a common source in Rock County)
- Building materials



Where is it found?





How do I test?

Short Term

48 hours

Long Term

3 months to 1 year

Radon levels can change throughout the year. Long term tests are the most accurate and are generally recommended as a follow-up to a high reading with a short term test.

Testing

Follow the directions on your test kit carefully! Tests should be done in the lowest "lived-in" level of your house. For example, if you have a basement that is only used for doing laundry, then you should test on the first floor. Do not place the test near drafty areas such as near heat registers, fireplaces and windows. Also avoid humid areas such as kitchens and bathrooms. The test should be placed in the breathing zone (2-7 ft. off the floor, 3 ft. away from windows/doors, and 6 in. from walls).

Note: If testing for real-estate transactions, test should be done in the lowest livable space and two tests should be used side by side!

What is a safe level?

EPA action level is 4.0 pCi/L. Not a health based standard; 3.9 pCi/L is not safe.

There is NO "safe" level of radon. Any exposure carries some risk.

The EPA action level is considered to be an achievable level for the majority of homes.

Outdoor levels average around 0.4 pCi/L and indoor levels average around 1.3 pCi/L

So what do I do if I have high radon?

Contact the Rock County Health Department for a list of mitigation contractors

Mitigation systems depressurize the area below a basement slab and exhaust radon out of the house

Costs range from \$600 to & \$1,500

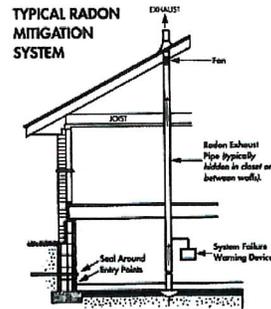
Can be hidden effectively (usually more expensive)

Warning!

Only Hire Certified Mitigation Contractors

Warning!

Radon Mitigation



Sub-Slab Depressurization is the most common technique used for mitigating radon.

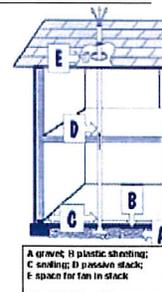


Other Methods to Reduce Radon

- Sealing cracks
 - Used in conjunction with other methods
 - Difficult to permanently seal all radon entry points
- House pressurization
 - Pressurize basement
- Natural ventilation
 - Opening doors, windows, vents
- Heat recovery ventilator
 - Mix with outside air

Radon Resistant New Construction

- Has many advantages
 - Easier to install
 - Less expensive
 - More effective
 - May not require fan – passive system with room for fan installation if needed



Hiring a Mitigator

Get more than one estimate

Check references

Should be certified in the Wisconsin

List of certified mitigators available from the health department or

www.lowradon.org

Recheck every two years

More Information...

Rock County Health Department

(608) 757-5441

www.lowradon.org

State of Wisconsin's radon website

www.epa.gov/radon

US EPA's radon site