



RADON IN GEORGIA

Georgia Radon Education Program (GREP)
Newsletter and Outreach Report
October 1, 2012 to December 31, 2012

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 Event

The Athens Lung Cancer Partnership's Free to Breathe 5-K Event was held November 10th at Sandy Creek Park in Athens.

Approximately 400 people ran or walked in the event with proceeds going to lung cancer research. Friends and family members of the runners also attended who did not run. Most of the runners ran in memory or in honor of a loved one.

Radon Educator Becky Chenhall was invited to share radon information and urge all the people attending to test for radon. She emphasized the fact that radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer overall and the first leading cause of lung cancer among non-smokers. She was placed, with the radon exhibit, in an excellent location adjacent to the registration pavilion, where all participants congregated. Ms. Chenhall talked with two lung cancer survivors who attended—both were diagnosed less than a year ago.

Chenhall spoke with the mother of a 26 year old lung cancer survivor who never smoked. She gave a radon test kit to her to test the home for radon. The family lives in the Athens area and was anxious to test their home.

A table with photos in memory of loved ones along with short stories of their lung cancer battle was displayed in the pavilion. Several of those were in their 20's and 30's. "Lung cancer is no longer an old person's disease", said pulmonologist Dr. Cynthia Shepherd. Dr. Shepherd was a speaker at the event and mentioned that currently pharmaceutical companies are making chemo treatments specific to target specific lung cancer mutations. All lung cancers are not the same, and it seems especially in younger patients that the mutations in the lung cancer cells are different.

Hayden Guthrie, 2012 Georgia & National Radon Poster Contest Winner, along with his father and grandfather, ran in the event. He and his father talked with Chenhall after the run about radon and Hayden representing Georgia.

Chenhall distributed radon brochures, pads, and pens. This event reached people all over the state and a few out of state.



GEORGIA RADON EDUCATORS AT WORK

Radon Success Story

Robert Fangman tested his Monroe home for radon when he heard of radon's potential health effects. He learned from the Walton County Extension Radon Program that radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer and the leading cause among non-smokers. He received a test kit from UGA Radon Educator, Becky Chenhall, at the Extension Office to test his home.



He tested his finished basement and the test result was 10.3 pCi/L. EPA recommends fixing all homes with a radon level of 4.0 pCi/L or above. Ms. Chenhall provided Mr. Fangman with information on radon mitigation, a list of Georgia Certified Radon Mitigators, and EPA's "How to Fix Your Home" brochure. Ms. Chenhall spoke with Mr. Fangman about his elevated radon and urged him to contact several certified radon mitigators.

Mr. Fangman selected a radon mitigator from the certified list to install the mitigation system. The mitigation system consisted of two vent pipes with inline fans extending from underneath the basement foundation to above the roof. The radon gas is diverted from under the home to the outside air above the home—instead of entering the house.

The homeowner retested for radon after the mitigation installation and the result was down to 1.4 pCi/L. A test result under 4.0 pCi/L is acceptable and the lower, the better. A test result will not be zero because radon is naturally occurring.

The Fangmans are pleased with the mitigation system and the radon test result. Mrs. Fangman frequently uses the basement for exercise and she notices a difference in the air. The mitigation system not only reduces radon, but also moisture, methane and other soil gases, therefore improving indoor air quality. The Fangmans are no longer concerned about elevated radon when family members sleep over in the basement bedrooms and they encourage others with high radon to "go ahead and fix your home today."

Becky Chenhall Provides Radon Education to Medical Professionals

In October, Becky Chenhall participated in the Medical Fair at Reynolds Plantation on Lake Oconee. The fair recruits medical students and medical professionals for positions in rural areas of Georgia. More than 100 attended and Chenhall spoke with between 50 and 60 medical students. Most had heard of radon, but knew very little about it and the radon potential in Georgia. The medical students/physicians were most interested in radon, testing, education, health effects & mitigation. She was able to reach more medical professionals in an afternoon than normally could be reached in a couple of months. Many said they intended to relay the information to patients and were going to promote radon testing, along with other preventative health measures. Attending the Medical Fair was a great opportunity with far-reaching implications.

RADON OUTREACH

Program Contacts & Media Impressions October through December 2012

SIRG Data - UGA		October 1, 2012 - December 31, 2012		
PROGRAM CONTACTS	Hall	Walton	Totals	
PROGRAMS-MEETINGS	2	3	5	
Participants	51	114	165	
Materials Distributed	139	265	404	
EXHIBITS-EVENTS	6	4	10	
Participants	0	1,065	1,065	
Materials Distributed	125	550	675	
OTHER CONTACTS	Hall	Walton	Totals	
TOTAL CONTACTS	20	236	256	
Medical professionals	2	65	67	
Home builders	2	1	3	
Realtors	1	0	1	
Consumer Contacts	15	170	185	
KIT USAGE DATA	Hall	Walton	Totals	
KITS DISTRIBUTED	70	58	128	
Results Received	42	35	77	
>= 4 pCi/L	11	10	21	
<= 4 pCi/L	27	20	47	
Incomplete	4	5	9	
% => 4 pCi/L	28.9%	33.3%	30.9%	
Highest Level	7.7	13.0	25.5	
MITIGATION DATA	Hall	Walton	Totals	
RRNC ¹	0	0	0	
Mitigations ²	0	0	0	
Mitigation Referrals	24	10	34	
MEDIA IMPRESSIONS	Hall	Walton	Totals	
RADIO	0	2	2	
Listeners	0	0	0	
TELEVISION	0	2	2	
Viewers	0	64,000	64,000	
NEWSPAPER	0	2	2	
Circulation	0	60,000	60,000	
NEWSLETTERS	0	0	0	
Distribution	0	0	0	
Local Web Hits ³	0	0	0	
GA SIRG WEB HITS ⁴		0		
TOTAL IMPRESSIONS	0	124,000	124,000	

^{1,2} RRNC & Mitigation data reported annually in the J-S quarter by Certified Mitigators in GA
³ Began tracking local web hits January 1, 2010
⁴ Data for UGA Radon website hits were not collected in the quarter of Oct. 1 - Dec. 1, 2012. Tracking began

RADON OUTREACH

Program Contacts & Media Impressions October 2003 through December 2012

PROGRAM CONTACTS	Hall	DeKalb	Gwinnett	Elbert	Walton	Southface	Other ¹	Totals
Programs / Meetings	266	187	266	193	555	1,084	27	2,578
Participants	8,430	4,335	15,112	3,866	21,016	17,946	2,099	72,804
Materials Distributed	14,528	11,441	15,887	6,595	41,618	9,184	75	99,328
Exhibits or Events ¹	129	86	175	63	150	67	31	701
Participants	42,655	6,558	146,287	11,978	152,916	13,798	2,996	377,188
Materials Distributed	48,555	8,947	50,145	8,057	23,740	1,296	1,346	142,086
OTHER CONTACTS	Hall	DeKalb	Gwinnett	Elbert	Walton	Southface	Other ¹	Totals
Total Direct Contacts	4,007	1,385	1,216	475	4,153	12,268	52	23,556
Medical professionals	449	51	242	56	706	0	24	1,528
Home builders	342	29	43	45	375	10,082	0	10,916
Realtors	452	93	85	25	200	836	28	1,719
Consumer Contacts	2,764	1,212	846	349	2,872	1,350	0	9,393
KIT USAGE DATA	Hall	DeKalb	Gwinnett	Elbert	Walton	Southface	Other ¹	Totals
Kits Distributed	7,718	4,271	7,853	2,893	11,028	5,192	4,600	43,555
Test Results Received	2,575	1,613	2,434	1,354	5,496	1,060	849	15,381
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 ¹	Totals
Mitigations ²	40	0	1	5	16	22	1,699	1,783
RRNC ³	2	0	0	0	10	442	1,026	1,480
Mitigation Referrals	909	249	361	91	569	412	0	2,591
MEDIA IMPRESSIONS	Hall	DeKalb	Gwinnett	Elbert	Walton	Southface	Other ¹	Totals
Radio Outreach	66	11	8	4,278	136	1	2	4,502
Listening Audience	4,847,000	3,670,000	10,000	4,020,000	2,683,000	2,000	377,000	15,609,000
TV Outreach	139	75	713	8	264	2	437	1,638
Viewing Audience	25,020,100	12,733,000	73,981,740	15,080	27,831,000	1,263,000	8,385,000	149,228,920
Newspaper Outreach	45	4	19	13	82	0	6	169
Circulation	1,325,000	3,223,000	1,304,817	154,800	3,045,449	0	69,500	9,122,566
Newsletter Outreach	50	2	14	17	49	9	16	157
Distribution	29,300	249	16,746	9,215	1,490,380	903,048	6,054	2,454,992
Local Web Hits ⁵	0	1,044	20,600	0	12,000	0	0	33,644
State Web Hits ⁶	47,595					51,296	0	98,891
TOTAL IMPRESSIONS	31,230,919	19,636,812	75,343,422	4,208,614	35,071,348	2,219,344	8,837,554	176,548,013

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

²Reported quarterly by Southface only.

³Certified GA mitigators report their mitigations & RRNCs annually in the J-S quarter in the "other" column.

⁴Began tracking Jan. 1, 2010

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

