

Radon Activity Badge Criteria

A partnership with the Illinois Emergency Management Agency and the American Lung Association in Illinois

Purpose: Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer and kills nearly 20,000 people each year. This program is designed to encourage scouts to test their home for radon and get them acquainted with radon terminology. This badge can easily be earned as a group or as an individual.

What is Radon?

- Radon is a colorless, odorless, tasteless, radioactive gas that is produced from the decay of naturally occurring uranium in the soil.
- When radon gas enters buildings and is breathed in, decay products damage lung tissues and can result in lung cancer.
- Radon is the leading cause of lung cancer for non-smokers and the second leading cause of lung cancer for the general population, killing over 21,000 people annually.
- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency action level for radon is 4.0pCi/L. The only way to determine radon levels in buildings is to test.

Required:

Step 1: Discover

Read the Following:

- "The ABCs of Radon in Illinois" from IEMA at www.radon.illinois.gov
- "The Citizen's Guide for Radon" from USEPA at www.epa.gov/radon/pdfs/citizensguide.pdf
- Read "Guidelines Radon Measurement in the Home" from IEMA at www.radon.illinois.gov (Age 14 – 18 only)

Watch the Videos:

- Radon and You produced by the American Lung Association in Illinois www.youtube.com/watch?v=K2BEt_ZFsXw
- Radon video contest videos www.state.il.us/iema/radon/radon.htm

Step 2: Connect

Incorporate the appropriate Activity Book into Troop Meeting or Event:

- Kindergarten - 5th grade activity coloring book
- 6th - 12th grade curriculum guide

Step 3: Take Action (Choose One)

1. Radon at Home

- Test your home for radon by following guidelines outlined in the test kit directions (test kits available at www.HealthHouse.org/radon/testkit.cfm)
- Discuss your project, general radon information, test results, and where to purchase a test kit with neighbors or family members

2. Poster Contest/Radon Summary (Ages 9-14)

- Submit a poster in the Illinois radon poster contest
- Rules are found online at www.HealthHouse.org/radon/il_poster.cfm

3. Video Contest (Age 14 - 18 only)

- Develop a 1-minute video to participate in the Illinois High School Radon Video Contest
- Rules are found online at www.healthhouse.org

Resources:

- Illinois Emergency Management Agency – www.radon.illinois.gov
- American Lung Association in Illinois – www.healthhouse.org
- National Radon Poster Contest – <http://sosradon.org/poster-contest>
- Illinois Radon Poster and Video Contests – www.healthhouse.org
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency – www.epa.gov/radon

American Lung Association in Illinois

- All program documents (i.e. brochure, quizzes, reporting forms) are available online at www.healthhouse.org
- For questions or general information please contact:
 - Kallie Sinkus
Environmental Programs Manager
Kallie.Sinkus@Lung.org
217.666.1667

