



State of Utah

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Utah to Host the Annual USEPA Region 8 Stakeholders Radon Meeting
“Radon Action in the West”

The Utah Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Radiation Control is intensifying its efforts to educate Utahns about the health risks of indoor radon gas. The dangers of radon gas will be the focus of the upcoming US EPA Region 8 Radon Stakeholders Meeting held in Salt Lake City, April 12-13, 2012, at the Red Lion Hotel.

Stakeholders and citizens from North and South Dakota, Montana, Colorado, Wyoming, and Utah will gather together for this 2-day educational meeting. The meeting will provide an exciting and rigorous agenda for professionals and homeowners. Wallace L. Akerley, Director of Community Oncology Research, Medical Director of the Clinical Trials Office, co-director of the Thoracic Cancer Program at Huntsman Cancer Institute (HCI) and Professor of Medicine at the University of Utah, will explicate the prevalence of non-tobacco related lung cancer deaths in Utah. William J. Angell, Professor of Housing, University of Minnesota, will address the Federal Action Plan for Saving Lives. Carolyn Allen, President of the American Association of Radon Scientists and Technologists (AARST), will clarify radon measurement and mitigation protocols. The agenda will include many other educational topics, along with CE classes taught by National Environmental Health Association (NEHA) Certified Instructors.

Radon is a colorless/odorless gas that is thought to be a culprit behind over 21,000 lung cancer death a year. Radon is the leading cause of lung cancer among non-smokers. Radon enters homes through cracks or openings in foundation walls or floors.

“Radon comes from the natural (radioactive) breakdown of uranium in soil, rock and water and gets into the air you breathe. Radon can be found all over the U.S. It can get into any type of building—homes, offices, and schools—and result in a high indoor radon level. But you and your family are most likely to get your greatest exposure at home, where you spend most of your time.” (<http://www.epa.gov/radon/pubs/citguid.htm#overview>)

According to radon test reports, the Division estimates that one-third of the homes in Utah will have elevated levels of radon. “We do have a problem in Utah and the only way to know if a home has elevated levels is to test it,” said Radon Program Coordinator Christine Keyser. “And, to make it easy and inexpensive, Utahns may now purchase a discounted short-term radon test kit for \$6.00 (includes laboratory analysis) on the state’s Radon Website at www.radon.utah.gov or call 1-800-324-5928, ext. 22.” To learn more about radon and/or the upcoming 2012 EPA Stakeholders Radon Meeting, please visit the state’s Radon Website.