

# Kansas Radon Program Newsletter

Serving individuals certified in radon measurement, mitigation and laboratory services in Kansas.



## Kansas Radon Program

## January 2022

Questions? Let's Talk.

**Certification Questions**

Mark Ungerer/Jason Meinholdt at KDHE: 785-296-1560

<https://www.kdhe.ks.gov/1061/Kansas-Radon>

**General Radon Questions**

Brian Hanson at KSU: 785-532-4996

<http://www.kansasradonprogram.org/>

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January is **NATIONAL RADON ACTION MONTH**



*On November 23, 2021, Governor Laura Kelly declared January to be Kansas Radon Action Month*



**On November 23, 2021, Governor Laura Kelly declared January 2022 Kansas Radon Action Month (KRAM).**

Pictured above from left to right: Dr. Joan Duwve, KDHE Deputy State Health Officer; Dr. Jennifer Bacani McKenney, Chair of the Kansas Cancer Partnership; Stephanie Lehmkuhl, Kansas State University Engineering Extension; Kendra Baldrige, LMSW, Director of the Bureau of Community Health Services, KDHE; Jason Meinholdt, Supervisor of Environmental Radiation and Emergency Preparedness, KDHE.

Winter is an excellent time to encourage citizens to test their homes for radon gas. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency recommends actively reducing indoor radon levels when homes are confirmed with 4.0 pCi/L of radon gas or higher. Kansas State Research and Extension (KSRE) county offices and all county health departments can obtain radon test kits for distribution from the Kansas Radon Program (KRP).

Chronic, long-term radon gas exposure in homes increases the long-term risk of developing lung cancer. Residential radon gas exposure is the number one leading cause of lung cancer death in the U.S. for non-smokers. The KRP is promoting KRAM through state-wide radio and television public education announcements in association with the Kansas Association of Broadcasters (KAB) between January 15 and March 15, 2022. KRP personnel are available to schedule public education programs (webinar options available) on request throughout winter 2022. KRP personnel are also available for phone, newspaper or live broadcast interviews. The KRP encourages all KSRE offices and county health departments to include articles in monthly newsletters or newspaper columns promoting KRAM. Visit [www.kansasradonprogram.org](http://www.kansasradonprogram.org) or call (800) 693-5343.

PLEASE REGISTER BY  
FEBRUARY 28, 2022

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU  
MARCH 8, 2022!

**DoubleTree by Hilton  
Kansas City (Overland Park)**  
10100 College Blvd.  
Overland Park, KS 66210

For a discounted hotel room rate, please visit:  
<https://group.doubletree.com/u5khe2>

# 16th Annual EPA Region 7 Radon Stakeholders' Meeting March 8, 2022



## U.S. EPA REGION 7

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF  
PUBLIC HEALTH

KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF  
HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF  
HEALTH AND SENIOR SERVICES

NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF  
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

HEARTLAND CHAPTER OF  
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF  
RADON SCIENTISTS AND  
TECHNOLOGISTS (AARST)

## QUESTIONS?

EMAIL BRIAN HANSON  
KANSAS RADON PROGRAM AT  
KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY  
BHANSON@KSU.EDU

## Registration is now open for the 16th Annual EPA Region 7 Radon Stakeholders' Meeting!

This event is being held at no cost for all those that have a stake in protecting the public from unnecessary exposure to radon in their homes, schools, and businesses.

NRPP, NRSB, or State CE credit will be offered.

## **REGISTER HERE:**

[https://kstate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_5tpfWwAgH7ftZ9c](https://kstate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_5tpfWwAgH7ftZ9c)

Before the Stakeholders' Meeting Kansas State University will be offering either 8 or 16 hours of continuing education on March 6-7, 2022.

More information can be found here:  
<https://radoncourses.com/CE/In-person>

# 60% of Homes Sold Are Not Tested for Radon

January 2022 is once again Kansas Radon Action Month (KRAM)! Chronic, long-term exposure to elevated levels of indoor radon increases our lifetime risk of developing lung cancer. Residential radon exposure is the second leading cause of lung cancer death in the United States.

The Kansas Radon Program (KRP) encourages all Kansas Residents to test their homes for radon gas in the January to March timeframe. Do-it-yourself (DIY) radon test kits are available from most Kansas State University County Research and Extension offices for less than \$15. Testing for radon in winter helps to properly characterize radon values in homes overtime.

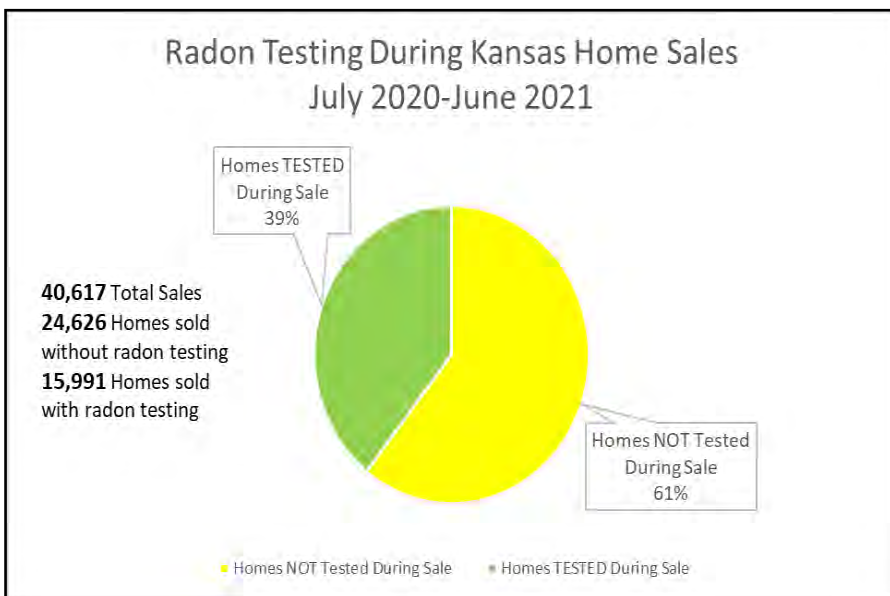


Figure One. Radon Testing Rates During Real Estate Purchases

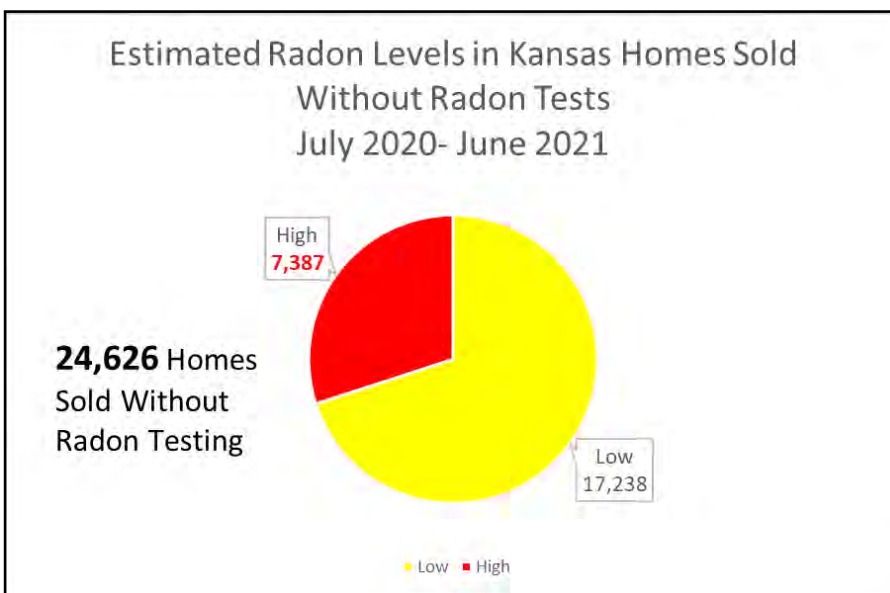


Figure Two. Homes Purchased Without a Radon Test

Residents who have previously tested their homes are encouraged to retest their homes under the following general guidelines. One, if a house had previously tested low for radon five (5) or more years prior. Two, if a house had previously tested high for radon and a radon reduction system was installed, a radon test should be conducted every two (2) years to verify ongoing control of indoor radon values. And three, a professional radon test by a Kansas-certified radon measurement professional should be included during the due diligence period of any home being purchased.

The KRP estimates that in the July 2020 to June 2021 period approximately 39% of homes purchased in Kansas included a radon test. However, that means that approximately 7,400 families unknowingly purchased and moved into homes in Kansas with elevated radon levels. Take action this winter to protect your family's long-term health, test for radon and if necessary take steps to reduce elevated indoor radon levels.

# NEW

## Soil Gas Mitigation Compliance Inspection Certification from NRPP

The National Radon Proficiency Program (NRPP), administered by the American Association of Scientists and Technologists (AARST), is in the final steps of development of a new certification. The NRPP, beginning in the first quarter of 2022, is administering a Radon Mitigation Compliance Inspector (RMCI) certification. The function of the certification is to formalize a mechanism for the inspection of radon mitigation systems installed per the ANSI/AARST SGM-SF-207 (w/2020 revisions) Soil Gas Mitigation Standards for Existing Homes.

This certification from AARST-NRPP WILL NOT have any legal use in Kansas for the foreseeable future. The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) does not anticipate using certified Compliance Inspection actors for state auditing of radon mitigation system installations

AARST-NRPP foresees multiple functions for this new certification. One, AARST-NRPP is currently piloting the certification in Indiana by contract with the state radon office; the Indiana Radon Program is 'outsourcing' its compliance and auditing of radon mitigators to the AARST-NRPP. AARST-NRPP intends to expand this type of contract work with states as more states adopt the ANSI/AARST standards. Two, AARST-NRPP sees this certification as a potential add-on service for home inspectors to offer to their clients.

The K-State Radon Training Programs is offering the mandatory 8-hour NRPP-approved training course for this new certification. Contact [radoncourse@ksu.edu](mailto:radoncourse@ksu.edu) or visit <https://radoncourses.com/CE> for information on upcoming course offerings.

### Upcoming Training: (more info on all of these at [www.radoncourses.com](http://www.radoncourses.com))

*Kansas State continues to offer radon entry-level and continuing education training to the Kansas radon industry.*

⇒ Entry-level courses will be offered online, webinar, and in-person for 2022. 2-day entry-level measurement webinars most months. Mitigation webinars simulcast during in-person Manhattan courses.

⇒ CE options include in-person and webinar as scheduled, online and correspondence always available.

⇒ We have classroom combined course (masks required) scheduled in Manhattan, KS January 31 — February 4, 2022.

⇒ EPA Region 7 Stakeholders meeting CE will be held on Sunday-Monday March 6-7, 2022. <https://radoncourses.com/CE/In-person>

*More information on these and other training opportunities:*

Website— <https://radoncourses.com/> | Call— (833) 723-6222

Email— [radoncourse@ksu.edu](mailto:radoncourse@ksu.edu).

# January - May Course Schedule

For in-person courses:



January

**Jan 20**  
Mit. Compliance  
Inspector  
Webinar

**Jan 27-28**  
Columbus, OH  
Optimal Mitigation  
& Advanced  
Diagnostics

**Jan 31-Feb 1**  
Entry-Level  
Measurement  
Webinar

**Jan 31-Feb 4**  
Manhattan, KS  
Entry-Level  
Measurement  
& Mitigation

February

**Feb 2-4**  
Entry-Level  
Mitigation  
Webinar

**Feb 7-11**  
Des Moines, IA  
Entry-Level  
Measurement  
& Mitigation

**Feb 14-18**  
Columbus, OH  
Entry-Level  
Measurement  
& Mitigation

March

**Mar 6-7**  
Lenexa, KS  
Optimal Mitigation  
& Advanced  
Diagnostics

**Mar 7**  
Overland Park, KS  
Mit. Compliance  
Inspector  
Certification

**Mar 7**  
Mit. Compliance  
Inspector  
Webinar

March  
Cont.

**Mar 14-15**  
Indianapolis, IN  
Entry-Level  
Measurement

**Mar 21-25**  
Denver, CO  
Entry-Level  
Measurement  
& Mitigation

**Mar 28-Apr 1**  
Waukesha, WI  
Entry-Level  
Measurement  
& Mitigation

April

**Apr 18-19**  
Entry-Level  
Measurement  
Webinar

To view our full  
**2022 Course Schedule,**  
please visit:  
<https://radoncourses.com/CourseSchedule>

May

**May 9-10**  
Entry-Level  
Measurement  
Webinar

**May 16-20**  
Columbus, OH  
Entry-Level  
Measurement  
& Mitigation

**May 32-27**  
St. Paul, MN  
Entry-Level  
Measurement  
& Mitigation

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Kansas State University



Courses will be cancelled at least one week prior to course start date if there are insufficient registration numbers

# ASK KDHE:

## New NRPP certification tiers & FHFA guidance changes

**New NRPP Certification Tiers:** With the introduction of new NRPP measurement and mitigation certification tiers many of you may have questions regarding how those fit into Kansas radon certifications. **The short answer is they do not fit into Kansas radon certification requirements.**

Nothing has changed with regards to Kansas certification. The existing NRPP examinations and courses for the **NRPP Radon Measurement Professional and NRPP Radon Mitigation Specialist are recognized** for obtaining certification in Kansas. Kansas requires introductory education requirements of 16 hours for measurement and 24 hours for mitigation certification, as well as a passing score on an examination approved by KDHE and continuing education requirements (16 hours for measurement/24 hours for mitigation). Mitigation training must include hands-on or field training. Full details for obtaining Kansas Certification can be found here: <https://www.kdheks.gov/radiation/contractor.htm>.

The new types of certification introduced by NRPP for both radon measurement and mitigation, **NRPP Radon Measurement Field Technician and NRPP Radon Mitigation Installer, are not recognized in Kansas.** Their initial training courses and exams will not qualify toward seeking Kansas certifications. The new NRPP certifications require introductory courses of a minimum 12 hours for Radon Measurement Field Technician and 20 hours for Radon Mitigation Installer. They also require a passing score on the associated examination and 8 hours of continuing education per certification period. Full details on the NRPP certification levels and requirements can be found here: <https://nrpp.info/certification/types-of-certification/>.

**FHFA guidance:** Another recent development in national standards is the adoption of AARST Protocol for Conducting Radon Measurements in Multi-family Buildings by HUD and the expected adoption of the same standard by the Federal Housing Finance Authority (FHFA). It is important to note that, while Kansas has not currently adopted any regulations on radon measurement in multi-family buildings, requirements for HUD, FHFA, or other financing organizations still apply. Please make sure to review the proper measurement standard and requirements for any multi-family measurement project you are bidding on. Kansas certification for radon measurement is still required to conduct measurements in multi-family buildings.

As always, if you have questions regarding radon measurement and mitigation certifications in Kansas, feel free to email [kdhe.radon@ks.gov](mailto:kdhe.radon@ks.gov).



# Major Multi-Family Measurement Policy Changes Expected in 2022 from the Federal Housing Finance Agency (FHFA)

The Federal Housing Administration (FHA), an agency of the Housing and Urban Development (HUD) secretariat of the U.S. government, recently published a substantial change to its required radon testing in FHA-insured multi-family housing projects developed under the Multifamily Accelerated Processing (MAP) Guide for 2020. In the 2020 MAP



guide, FHA adopted the ANSI/AARST MAMF-2017 (w/1/2021 revision) Protocols for Conducting Measurements of Radon and Radon Decay Products in Multifamily Buildings as the required standard of practice for all radon testing conducted under the 2020 MAP guide environmental reporting requirements. In Kansas, radon measurement professionals MUST BE certified BOTH with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) AND with either the National Radon Proficiency Program (NRPP) or the National Radon Safety Board (NRSB) for FHA-mandated multi-family radon measurement activities. Multi-family measurement is the ONLY situation currently where dual certification is required to perform the tasks.

The Federal Housing Finance Agency (FHFA) is the organization that oversees the privately-operated but publicly-chartered lending agencies Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. These two organizations provide the private housing lending industry in the U.S. public support. In light of the changes published in the FHA 2020 MAP guide, the FHFA has given these two agencies instructions to provide the FHFA with updated radon testing protocols that are in line with the ANSI/AARST MAMF-2017 (w/1/2021 revision) standard by the end of 2021.

These expected changes to Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac radon testing policies could drive significant need for trained multi-family measurement professionals in Kansas in the major metropolitan areas of the state. The K-State Radon Training Programs is in the process of developing updated multi-family measurement curricula to meet these training needs. Contact [radoncourse@ksu.edu](mailto:radoncourse@ksu.edu) or visit <https://radoncourses.com/CE/> to see listings for multi-family measurement or mitigation courses as they are scheduled the second quarter of 2022.



*NEW Radon Continuing Education Course for Health Professionals*

In cooperation with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE), the Kansas Radon Program (KRP) at K-State has developed a 2 hour continuing education (CE) course targeted at health professionals in Kansas. The course, focusing on health effects of residential radon gas exposure and hosted through Kansas Train (<https://www.train.org/ks/welcome>), is offered free of charge.



# EPA Radon Resources for NRAM for Social Media

**January is National Radon Action Month**




Test your home.  
Protect your health.

**EPA** [epa.gov/radon](http://epa.gov/radon)

**National Radon Action Month**

Radon is estimated to cause about 21,000 lung cancer deaths per year



Cause	Deaths per year
RADON	21,000
Drunk Driving	17,400
Falls in the Home	8,900
Growings	3,900
Home Fires	2,800

**EPA** [epa.gov/radon](http://epa.gov/radon)

**National Radon Action Month**

It's the last week of National Radon Action Month. Have you tested your home?


Test, Fix, Save a life.



**EPA** [epa.gov/radon](http://epa.gov/radon)

**National Radon Action Month**

Do you know why it's important to test your home for radon?



- 1 in 15 homes tests high for radon levels
- Radon is the 2nd leading cause of lung cancer, causing 21,000 lung cancer deaths per year
- Among non-smokers, radon is the #1 cause of lung cancer

**EPA** [epa.gov/radon](http://epa.gov/radon)

**National Radon Action Month**

**Building a new home?**

It's easy to build safer new homes with radon-resistant construction.



**EPA** [epa.gov/radon](http://epa.gov/radon)

**National Radon Action Month**

**What is radon?** Radon is a cancer-causing radioactive gas. You can't see radon. And you can't smell it or taste it. But it may be a problem in your home.

Test your home for radon today.



**EPA** [epa.gov/radon](http://epa.gov/radon)

**January is National Radon Action Month**

Test your home.  
Protect your health.

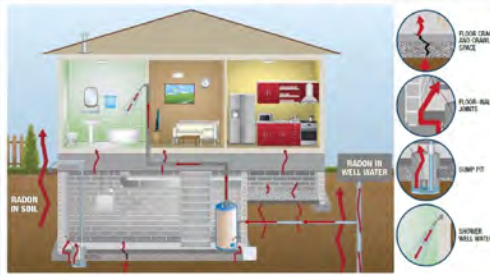


**EPA** [epa.gov/radon](http://epa.gov/radon)

**National Radon Action Month**

Radon can enter your home in many ways:

- Cracks in solid floors
- Construction joints
- Cracks in walls
- Gaps in suspended floors
- Gaps around service pipes
- Cavities inside walls
- The water supply




**EPA** [epa.gov/radon](http://epa.gov/radon)

**National Radon Action Month**

**MYTH:** Radon testing is difficult, time consuming and expensive.

**FACT:** Radon testing is easy! You can test your home yourself or hire a qualified radon testing company.



**EPA** [epa.gov/radon](http://epa.gov/radon)