



Insider News

Lead and Healthy Homes
Division Newsletter

January 2018



Indiana State
Department of Health

National Radon Action Month!

You can't see, smell or taste radon, but it could be present at a dangerous level in your home. Radon is the leading cause of lung cancer deaths among nonsmokers in America and claims the lives of about 21,000 Americans each year. In fact, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Surgeon General urge all Americans to protect their health by testing their homes, schools and other buildings for radon.

Exposure to radon is a preventable health risk and testing radon levels in your home can help prevent unnecessary exposure. Test your home for radon! If a high radon level is detected in your home, take steps to fix the

problem to protect yourself and your family.

January is National Radon Action Month. The goal is to increase awareness of radon and educate on reducing levels of radon. In Indiana, radon is present at some level in each county. The EPA map has indicated which counties have the highest levels of radon. Each home should be tested regardless of which zone the home is found in.

Fix your home if your radon level is 4 picocuries per liter (pCi/L) or higher. Radon reduction systems are effective and they are not too costly. Some radon reduction systems can reduce radon levels in your home by up to 99%! Even very high levels



can be reduced to acceptable levels. It's never too late to reduce your risk of lung cancer. Don't wait to test and fix a radon problem!

For more information about radon, please call our radon hotline at: 1-800-272-9723 or [click here](#).

CONTACT US

This newsletter is brought to you by the Indiana State Department of Health Lead and Healthy Homes Division.

Please contact 317.233.1250 or [click here](#) for more information

INDIANA - EPA Map of Radon Zones

Radon Zone

- Zone 1: Counties with predicted average indoor radon screening levels greater than 4 pCi/L
- Zone 2: Counties with predicted average indoor radon screening levels from 2 to 4 pCi/L

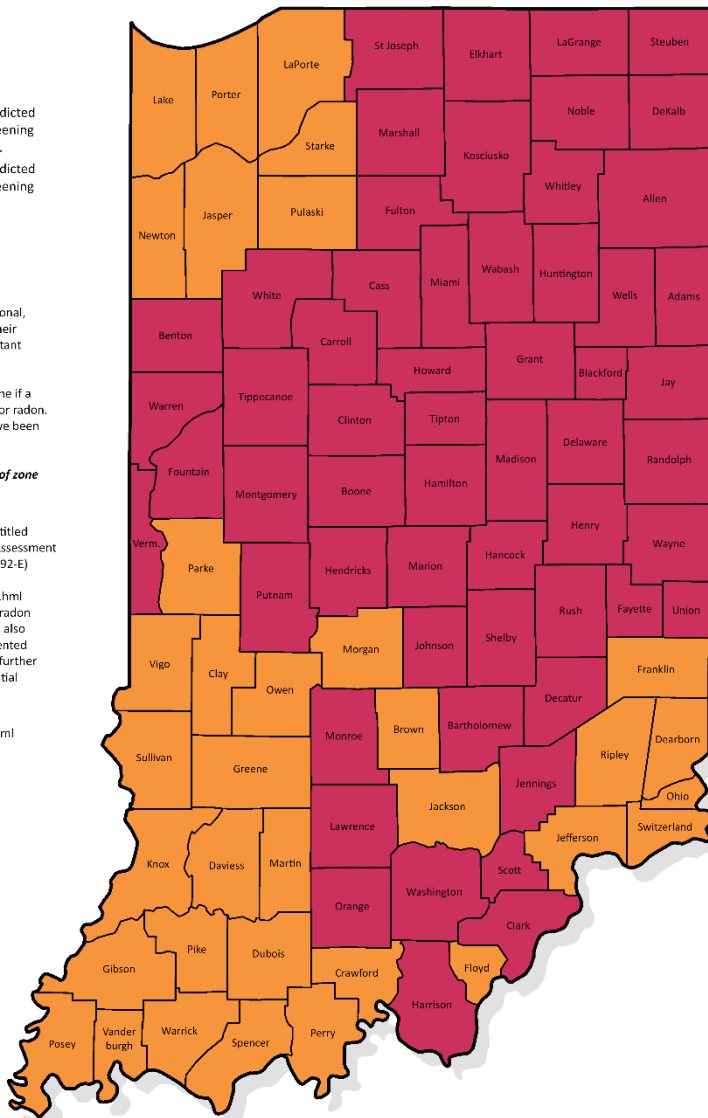
The purpose of this map is to assist National, State and local organizations to target their resources and to implement radon-resistant building codes.

This map is not intended to determine if a home in a given zone should be tested for radon. Homes with elevated levels of radon have been found in all three zones.

All homes should be tested, regardless of zone designation.

IMPORTANT: Consult the publication entitled "Preliminary Geologic Radon Potential Assessment of Indiana" (USGS Open-File Report 93-292-E) before using this map. <http://energy.cr.usgs.gov/radon/grpinfo.html> This document contains information on radon potential variations within counties. EPA also recommends that this map be supplemented with any available local data in order to further understand and predict the radon potential of a specific area.

<http://www.epa.gov/radon/zonemap.html>



Highlights of 2017:

- New division director, Paul Krievins, officially started in November 2017. We are excited to see what new leadership Paul will bring to the division this New Year.
- Not only did we hire a new director, earlier in the year we also hired two other employees: Health Educator, Ismat Bhuiyan and Risk Assessor, Jack Kinsey. Both have worked hard to make a difference at ISDH.
- At the end of 2017, we reached 98% of the counties for case management training. Indiana's Case Management Rule 410 IAC 29 requires new hires to be trained within six months of hire. We also used this opportunity as a refresher for public health nurses.

A Glimpse of 2018:

- The Healthy Homes Lead Poisoning Surveillance System (HHPSS) will be implemented this year. HHPSS is a web-based replacement for the Systematic Tracking of Elevated Lead Levels and Remediation (STELLAR) system supported by the CDC Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program.
- ISDH Healthy Homes grant writing workshops will be conducted for local health departments.
- The Lead and Environmental Hazards Association (LEHA) will be hosting their Regional Midwest conference in Indianapolis in November 2018!

ISDH Staff Spotlight:

Each quarterly newsletter features a staff member from the Lead and Healthy Homes Division. This quarter our staff spotlight is on, Jack Kinsey!



Jack joined ISDH in May 2017 as one of three lead ISDH risk assessors. He conducts risk assessments

for the central region of the state. If your county does not already have a risk assessor, feel free to reach out to Jack or any of our other risk assessors for assistance identifying lead hazards in the homes.

Fun fact: This past summer Jack traveled to Nepal where he explored Newari cuisine!

