

RADON

NOVEMBER 2011

FACTS ABOUT RADON

- RADON – Radioactive, colorless, odorless, tasteless gas occurring naturally as the decay product of Uranium or Thorium.
- It's Atomic Number is 86 and Symbol is Rn

FACTS ABOUT RADON

- The most common isotope of uranium and thorium has a very long half-life, (4.5 billion years) while its most stable isotope, Rn has a half life of only 3.8 days.
- Radon is responsible for the majority of the public exposure to ionizing radiation.

FACTS ABOUT RADON

- It is often the single largest contributor to an individual's background radiation dose.
- Radon gas from natural sources can accumulate in buildings, especially in confined areas such as attics and basements and can also be found in some spring waters and hot springs.

FACTS ABOUT RADON

- Epidemiological studies have shown a clear link between breathing high concentrations of radon and the incidence of lung cancer.
- The EPA estimates that radon is the second most frequent cause of lung cancer after smoking.

FACTS ABOUT RADON

- The EPA also estimates that there are 21,000 lung cancer deaths annually in the U.S. from Radon.

ROUTES OF ENTRY INTO THE BODY

- INHALATION – PRIMARY ROUTE OF ENTRY – lung cancer
- ORAL, VIA DIGESTIVE TRACT
HAND MOUTH TRANSFER
Drinking Contaminated Ground Water

RADON IN SINGAPORE

- Not considered to be a major health concern here.
- NRCS Environmental and Housing have coordinated significant testing of housing units.

Radon in Singapore

- Geologically there are no significant uranium deposits here and most houses do not have basements where Radon gas can accumulate.
- People do tend to rely on air conditioning to keep houses cool and do keep their units “sealed up”.

WHERE IS RADON EXPOSURE LIKELY?

- Eastern Canada, upper midwest of the U.S. and some of the western states, Australia, Russia and some areas of Africa.

Recommendations

- Open windows periodically (At least monthly) to “air out” your unit.
- Explain to your family members what radon is and how to avoid exposure to this substance.

QUESTIONS

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