

WORKPLAN
State Indoor Radon Grant (SIRG) 25th Year
2015

BACKGROUND

The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) has conducted an Indoor Radon Program (Program) for twenty-three years with matching SIRG funds from the United States, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The Program is within the Division of Drinking Water and Environmental Management, Environmental Management Branch, and is staffed by one Environmental Scientist administering the program on a statewide basis.

Goals and Objectives

The goal of the Program is to reduce human exposure to radon in residential and school structures through resources and objectives that educate California residents about radon and its risks, encourage residents to have their homes and schools tested, mitigate their homes and schools when indoor air radon concentrations are at or above 4 picoCuries per liter (pCi/L), and to build radon resistant homes and schools in high radon potential areas.

Program Activities

Work Phases 2015 and 2016.

County-Regional Screening Survey

The Program will continue its annual county-regional screening surveys. For 2015 the Program will focus on the Pacific Coast Range Mountains, a section of which was previously screened in the San Mateo County survey. The focus will now be specific portions of Santa Clara County.

Using prior year funds, the program will also target two regions within the Central Valley, subject to available parcel data.

The purpose of the survey is to educate residents about the risks of radon and to test their homes, identify areas of high radon potential, produce a detailed radon potential map and report of the region, and add test results to the statewide database that is available to the public on the Program website.

Staff will work with local government officials to structure a survey that will require the following: 1) setting and measuring test results goals, 2) creating a digital mailing list sorted by county, geologic unit and owner occupied residential dwellings (recruit), 3) creating a form letter with the plan description and radon education information, 4) offering a free short term test kit to each recruit willing to participate in the survey (supply is limited), and 5) offering all residents the option to purchase a test kit for \$7.95 with analysis and shipping charges included.

National Radon Action Month

Implement radon awareness outreach activities in January that will educate residents on the health risks associated with radon and encourage them test their homes. Activities will

include: 1) promoting January as "National Radon Action Month," on the Program website, through Twitter and facebook links on the CDPH website, 2) directing California residents to the \$7.95 test kits that can be purchased online or by calling a toll free telephone number, 3) increasing awareness of radon as a naturally occurring environmental health hazard.

Indoor Radon Program Website

The Program will continue to maintain the CDPH Indoor Radon Program website. The website is monitored daily and any critiques of the site will be addressed as soon as possible. The service providers and statewide test results databases are updated at least twice quarterly.

In 2015 the Program will undertake the following: 1) review and restructure the presentation of material and links for each of the Program web pages, 2) create a certificate expiration and a registration requirements notification message to post online and for transmittal by email or form letter to service providers, 3) develop an enforcement action notice for posting online to alert the public and service providers when service providers are in violation of certification and/or contractor license requirements, 4) work with mitigators to obtain information on mitigations and to create a new link within the website to display these mitigations, 4) post interactive materials and video promoting radon awareness.

Indoor Radon California Radon Database

The Program will continue to update and maintain the State of California Radon Test Results Database. Currently, the data available to the public contains records through 2010. In 2015, the Program will publish the most available records and present them in a more user-friendly format.

Radon Potential Maps and Reports

The Program will continue working with the California Geological Survey (CGS) in the publication of radon potential maps and reports for previously conducted radon screening surveys. These maps contain the three zones representing where high, medium and low potentials for radon exist.

In 2015-2016 the Program and CGS will target completion of radon potential maps and reports for the following screening survey areas: Orange County, Tulare County, and San Mateo County.

Radon Resistant New Construction and Industry Partnerships

The Program will promote radon resistant new construction (RRNC) techniques in new homes and schools and utilize the plan to educate local governments and residents in known high radon potential (high-risk) areas about the benefits of RRNC. The Program will partner with technological and professional industry organizations to promote radon-resistant new construction and encourage contractors to become certified radon mitigators. The Program will recruit for a registry of construction firms which voluntarily incorporate radon-resistant new construction in their designs. This registry will be proactively distributed by the Program to local development authorities, especially when new housing developments or schools are proposed for construction.

Outreach and Education

The 2015 Radon Outreach and Education program will develop and distribute new outreach materials, in addition to distributing existing EPA publications. Materials will be developed and targeted to specific groups, including students, home owners, realtors, and construction industry professionals. The Outreach Program will include participation in county health fairs, technical panels, State Scientist Day, and public forums.

Extensive statewide travel is anticipated. Based on anticipated test kits costs, the Program will launch a pilot voucher program with its partner laboratory for California residents to order free test kits. The Program will develop partnerships with local public agencies, state and federal entities, and non-profit organizations to distribute free test kits and to publish print and radio public service announcements that direct California residents to the \$7.95 test kits that can be purchased online or by calling a toll free telephone number.

Training

Mandatory participation in the annual National Radon Training Conference sponsored by EPA every October and subsequent conference in 2015. The conference serves as the forum for SIRG program managers to receive training, exchange program information, coordinate action on radon and confer with industry representatives and EPA staff. The conference is a requirement of the grant and costs are paid for by the grant.