

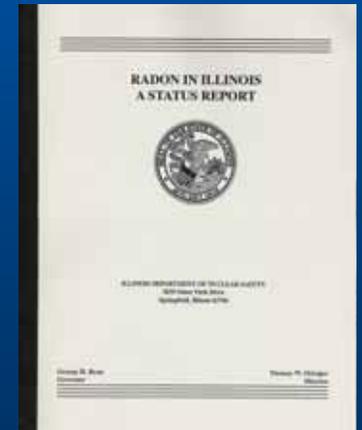


# "How Illinois Got 10K Radon Tests and a Pending Real Estate Law: Using Data to Grab Public Attention and Increase Action"

Illinois Emergency Management Agency  
Radon Program - Patrick I. Daniels

# Project Initiated - December 2004

- USEPA requested a review of the “Illinois Map of Radon Zones.”
- “Radon in Illinois: A Status Report” was published **1992.**





Based on Research by John Rodgers

# Objectives

- Provide a better description of the areas in which radon awareness may be lacking.
- Provide public information pertaining to radon levels in their counties zip codes via GIS mapping.
- Estimate the number of homes in Illinois that may have elevated radon levels

# Summary of Data

- 2003 and 2004 measurement data was requested from licensees with 100% response rate.
- Approx. 50,000 measurements throughout the state.
- 22,082 homes tested
  - 10,049 (46%) were above the USEPA Action Level.
- Only 22 Counties with sufficient data.

# Results

- **In 11 Counties >50% of Homes Tested  $\geq$  4.0 pCi/L**
  - 51% to 69% of homes tested  $\geq$  4.0 pCi/L
- **In 10 Counties, 25%- 50% of Homes Tested  $\geq$  4.0 pCi/L**
  - 30% to 49% of homes tested  $\geq$  4.0 pCi/L
  - Highest reading was **178.9 pCi/L** in Will county with 47% homes tested greater than 4pCi/l.

# Results Continued

- **1 County with <25% of Homes Tested  $\geq 4.0$  pCi/L**
- **50 Counties with Insufficient data**
- **30 Counties with no data**

# Conclusions

No significant difference from EPA Map Zone ranks.

No IEMA amendment to 1992 IL Map of Radon Zones

**SCREENING MAP:**

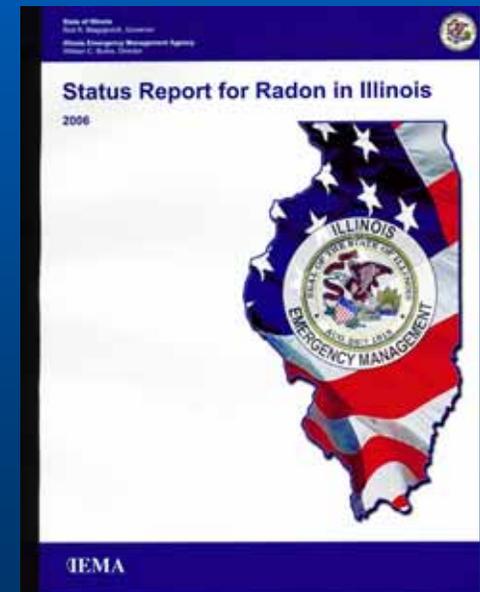
A significant statistical difference in classification was found.

IEMA updated the IL Screening Map



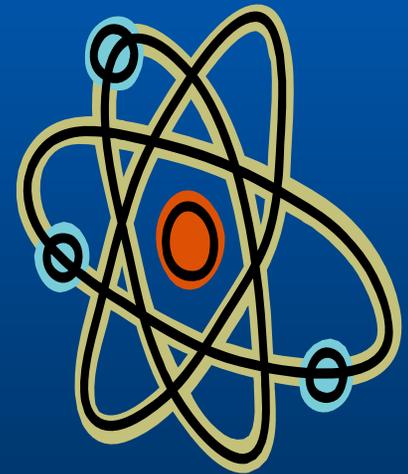
# Publication - October 2006

- After initial release, the Radon Program answered 3000 phone calls from the public during the last quarter of 2006
- IEMA has provided approximately 15,000 test kits since October 2006 through April 2007



# Report Implications Publicized

- **Citizens should test in all areas of the state.**
- **IEMA issued press releases, and advisories**
  - Emphasized high risk area results
  - Emphasized high risk areas with little or no tests and offered test kits to residents
- **GREAT PUBLIC RESPONSE**
  - Partnership with ALA offers free detectors to the public results in over 10,000 tests performed



# Concerned Citizen

- **Gloria Linnertz became active in pursuing radon issues in early 2006 after the death from lung cancer of her husband Joe.**



# Illinois Legislation

- **Gloria contacted her State Representative and in the spring of 2006. The Illinois House of Representatives passed a proclamation recommending all homes be tested for the presence of radon gas.**
- **In 2007, Gloria convinced her representative that further legislation was necessary to raise radon awareness.**

# Creating a Workable Bill

- John Dunn, Executive Director of the **Illinois Home Inspectors' Association**, works with the Illinois Association of Realtors to create a Bill acceptable to everyone with an interest.
- [jrdkick@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jrdkick@sbcglobal.net),



# Radon Awareness Act (HB1425)

**Provides that every buyer of any interest in residential real property is notified that the property may present exposure to dangerous levels of indoor radon gas that may place the occupants at risk of developing radon-induced lung cancer.**





# Patrick Daniels

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# Questions

