

Tornados, Doctors and Radon Gas

Radon is a word it seems most people have never heard. When asked, many confuse it with carbon-monoxide or something Superman is allergic to. But, the EPA estimates that Radon is responsible for 21,000 or more U.S. lung cancer deaths annually (over 400,000 world-wide); second only to smoking.

Radon gas is released into the atmosphere when uranium in the ground decomposes. It is present everywhere in the atmosphere at a level that would require us to live a couple of hundred years before it alone would likely have a health impact. But in homes and other structures it can easily reach unhealthy elevated levels.

Testing is easy, inexpensive and can be measured with a simple 48 hour test. Homeowners can acquire a passive test kit and have it analyzed by a test lab or it can be measured by many home inspectors with a continuous monitor for immediate results.

The EPA says Radon is found at elevated levels in 1 out of 5 homes in the northern half of Georgia. Remediation is easy and relatively inexpensive. The average cost nationwide for slab and crawlspace venting systems is approximately \$1200 to \$2000.

So what does all this have to do with Tornados and Doctors? Consider this; if the weather service could determine that 1 out of 5 homes in your neighborhood would be destroyed tonight by a tornado, you would probably spend the night elsewhere.

If your doctor said you may have cancer and it could be determined with a \$200 test and if found, eliminated surgically for a cost of \$1200 to \$2000, we would all probably be more than happy to make that payment.

Please don't let Radon go unchecked. To see what the EPA says about Radon, go to <http://www.epa.gov/radon>

To order your own test kit for \$10, go to http://www.fcs.uga.edu/ext/housing/radon/radon_test.html