



Next Stakeholders Meeting:
July 27th, 2011
Brainerd, MN

In prosperity, our friends know us; in adversity, we know our friends

- John Churton Collins

2011 Habitat for Humanity partnership

Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity (TCHFH) and the MDH Radon Program established a partnership in 2010 to build new homes that meet the MDH Gold Standard. Gold Standard homes are built with radon resistant features that reduce the radon risk to occupants by actively drawing radon from below the home and venting it above the roof line of the home. By building homes to the MDH Gold Standard, TCHFH is working to protect the health of families it serves.

HFHTC has committed to building 50 new homes to the Gold Standard in the Twin Cities metro area in 2011. To help support their efforts, MDH has donated 50 mitigation fans and U-Tube manometers to HFHTC. To learn more about HFHTC visit them at <http://www.tchabitat.org/>.

Volunteer with Habitat

Twin Cities Habitat relies on thousands of volunteers every year to carry out our mission – be a part of building more stable communities! Volunteers are needed to help with everything from construction to helping families settle into their new homes. Find the volunteer opportunity that is right for you!

We need individual and groups volunteers. Pick your commitment level - one time to full time! Please check out the links below to find out more information.

If you have questions, please contact the Volunteer Coordinator at 612-305-7114 or volunteer@tchabitat.org.

July Stakeholders Meeting

Due to a potential state shutdown we are uncertain if we will be holding our July 27th stakeholders meeting. If the state budget is resolved by July 27th we will still hold the meeting, if there is no budget approved we will cancel the meeting. We will be sending out an email to the list-serve when we have more information.



Center Stage

- Basic Pressure Field Extension (PFE) measurements

PFE measurements are the most basic and useful form of advanced diagnostics. Good PFE measurements can diagnose why a mitigation system is not reducing the radon levels. They can also help to improve the operating efficiency of the mitigation system which reduce the annual cost to operate a mitigation system.

Good PFE measurements follow the 8 step process below:

- 1) Create a floor plan
- 2) Identify potential barriers to PFE and indicate them on the plan
- 3) Layout PFE measurement points on the floor plan
- 4) Determine potential suction points and label them on the floor plan
- 5) Drill the holes as indicated on the floor plan
- 6) Hook up vacuum to the proposed suction point
- 7) Record the PFE measurements
- 8) Analyze results

(5)



(6)



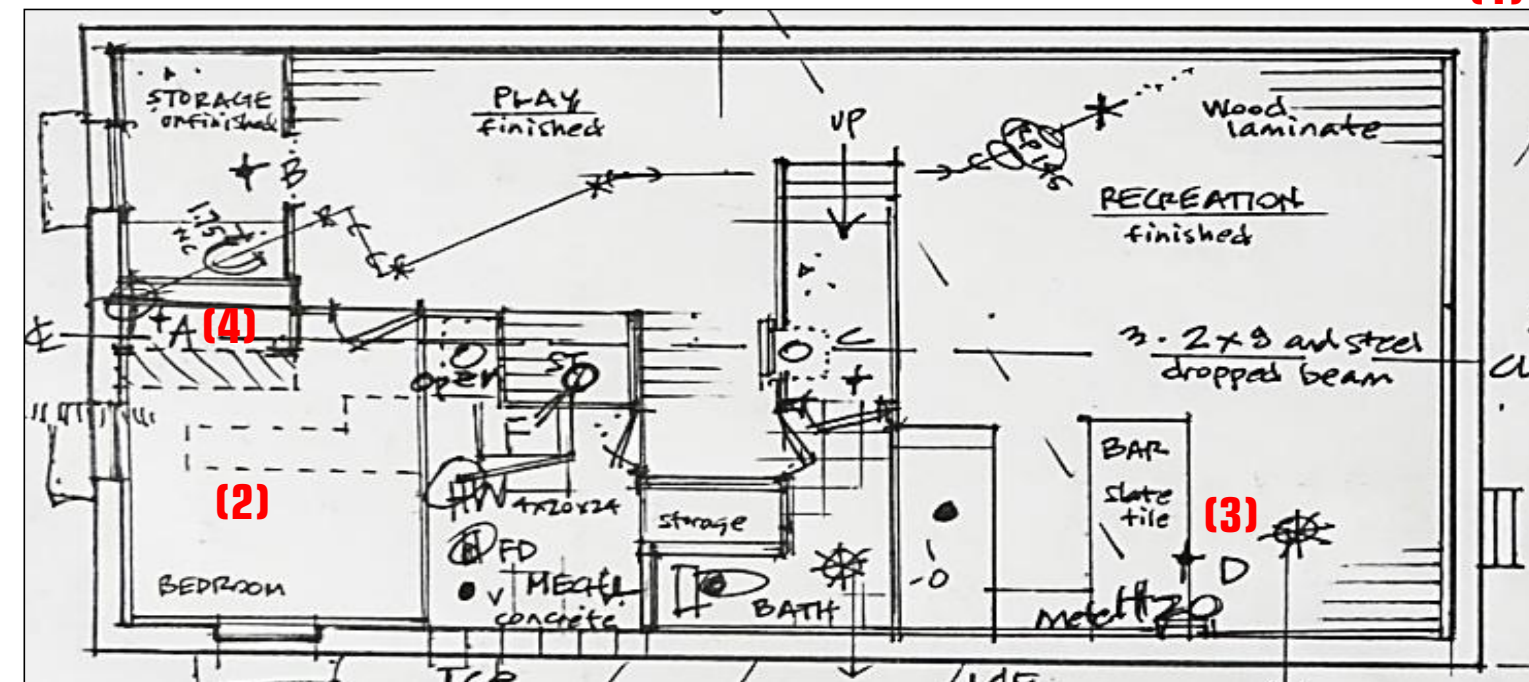
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Advanced Diagnostics - Shakopee, MN

(8)

Condition	Est. Airflow (CFM)	Pressure at Given Location (Pa)			
		A (Pit)	B (Storage)	C (Stairs)	D (Bar)
Baseline - No Pit	---	---	+4.3	+2.5	+2.2
Vac. Diagnostics - No Pit	---	-830	-4.7	-4.7	-3.1
Vac. Diagnostics (5 gal pit) (est. GP501)	38	-975	---	-8.3	-3.1
Vac. Diagnostics (5 gal pit) (est. RP145)	22	-559	---	-4.7	-1.5
Vac. Diagnostics (5 gal pit) (est. RP140)	3	-174	---	+2.3	+2.8
Vac. Diagnostics (5 gal pit) (est. RP145)	18	-481	---	-3.9	-1.2
Vac. Diagnostics (10 gal pit) (full vac)	56	-992	---	-13.6	-6.0
Vac. Diagnostics (10 gal pit) (est. RP145)	18	-335	---	-4.1	-1.2
Final System, fan off	---	-3.3	+1.8	+2.0	+1.9
Final System, RP145 On	25	-402	-26	-5.5	-2.0

(1)



Next Month: The Center Stage will cover how to use a manometer and a vacuum to measure air flow and size a fan while design the radon mitigation system.



5 steps for a quick back drafting test:

1) Turn down the water heater temperature so that the water heater does not ignite until turned up. This is a very important step because if the water heater is in a back draft mode when all the fans are on while you are waiting for the flue to cool, in step #4, there could be a very high level of Carbon Monoxide in the basement when you return to do the back draft test.



2) Turn the furnace heat OFF and the fan ON. The furnace fan running usually draws air from the basement which makes it more difficult for the water heater to vent.

3) Turn ON all exhaust fans. Keep in mind that there are more than just bath fans that can take air from the home. (e.g. kitchen range hood, clothes dryers, attic ventilation fans, radon mitigation systems, etc.) One additional step that can be added is to close all the doors to the room with the water heater. This will create the smallest area for the water heater to draw air, making it more difficult for the water heater to vent properly.



4) Ensure the water heater flue is cold, using a infrared thermometer will prevent burning. This is very important because a warm flue will already be creating some stack effect which vents the water heater. Stack effect is when warm air rise, which cause air to be drawn in the bottom. The stack effect is what makes water heaters vent properly.

5) Turn the water heater temp up until the it fires, use chemical smoke to ensure proper drafting. Proper drafting will cause the smoke to go up the flue, as shown in the picture to the right.



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800-798-9050 or 651-201-4601

TTY: 651-201-5797

www.health.state.mn.us/radon

This newsletter provides information from the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) on radon and the State Radon Program. The U.S. Surgeon General, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and MDH recommend that every home be tested for radon.