

“Your work is going to fill a large part of your life, and the only way to be truly satisfied is to do what you believe is great work. And the only way to do great work is to love what you do.”

Steve Jobs

Next Stakeholder Meeting:
April 29th, 2011
Rochester, MN



Radon and the Minnesota Cancer Alliance

The Indoor Air Unit (IAU) was recently asked to get involved with the **Minnesota Cancer Alliance**; a coalition of health organizations, community groups, and volunteers that create and implement five-year plans with specific objectives designed to reduce the cancer burden among all Minnesotans. IAU helped develop an **objective** related to **reducing** the radon related **lung-cancer risk to Minnesotans**.

The objective for radon is to **“establish statewide policies that will result in levels of radon in new and existing homes that are as low as reasonably achievable.”** Strategies for reaching this objective include: incorporation of the **MDH Gold Standard** into current Radon Resistant New Construction requirements, advocating for statewide policies requiring radon education and/or testing during real-estate transactions, and educating stakeholders including legislators, real-estate agents, and associated nonprofit agencies regarding radon safety.

Inclusion in the Minnesota Cancer Plan is a big success for the radon program as it connects us to a larger community with organizations that are able to advocate, educate, and engage stakeholder groups in ways that are not available to the radon program.

Cancer Summit

The Minnesota Cancer Alliance is hosting a Cancer Summit, scheduled **March 24 from 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.** at the Minneapolis Airport Marriott to announce the launch of the Cancer Plan MN 2011-2016. **Jim Kelley** and **Andrew Gilbert** from the radon program will be presenting during the summit on the radon activities going on throughout the state. Including how Cancer Alliance members can best accomplish the radon objective in the plan.

To **register**, or for more information on the summit, visit <http://www.mncanceralliance.org/summit2011.html>



New Radon Employee

Tom Standke was hired to help builders to reduce the lung cancer risk in all new homes by building to the gold standard. Come to the **next stakeholder** meeting to meet Tom and hear a little more about the exciting work coming later this year.

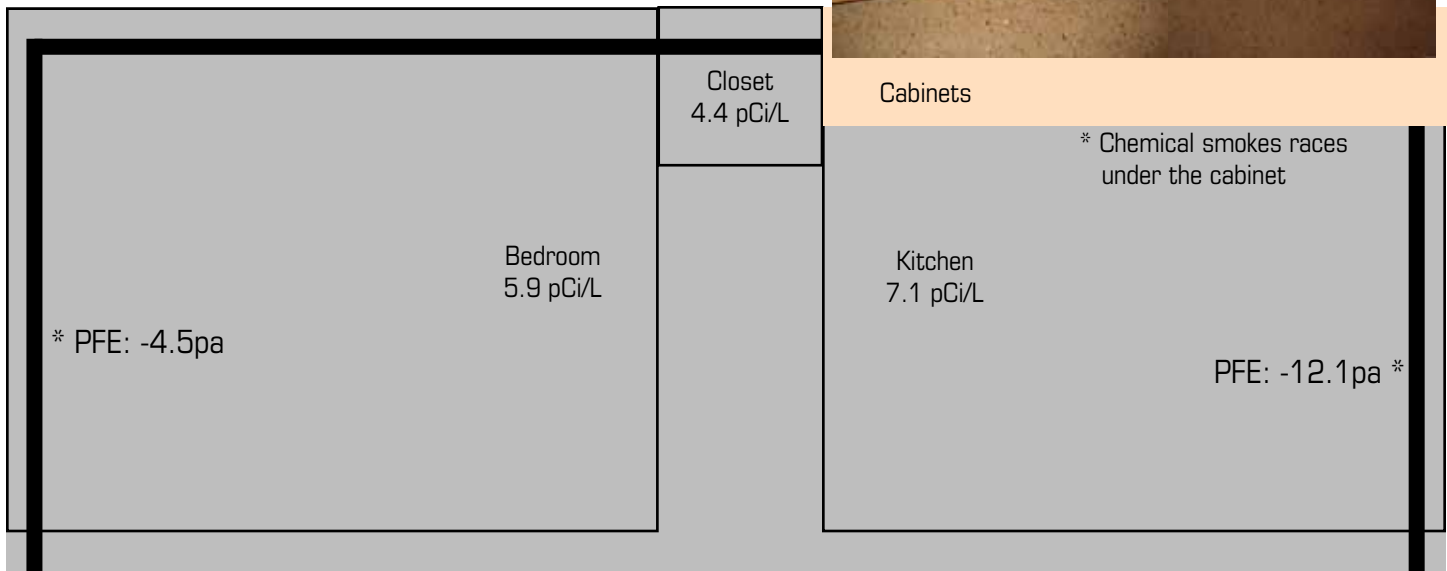


Re-testing after mitigation:

A plea from all lung cancer survivors. Please encourage your clients to re-test their homes in the winter months. The house below was brought to my attention when a homeowner had a **mitigation system installed in 2003**. Post mitigation testing was completed in the late spring and the levels were below 2 pCi/L. **Seven years** later the **homeowner** was diagnosed with **lung cancer!** The house was tested again, the winter levels were 9 pCi/L. The air conditioning system and reduced stack pressure in the summer can cause your test results to be lower than the actual risk to the homeowner. So **please** encourage them to **test again** in the **winter!**

Diagnosing Pressure Field Extension:

Sometimes it takes two types of Pressure Field Extension (PFE) measurement devices to get the right solution to a troubling mitigation system. The diagram and photos below were part of the MDH mitigator outreach and education program. We offer our technical resources to homeowners that used our list to find a radon contractor. The system that was installed in this house was struggling to effectively reduce the radon levels in the home. Through the use of a micro-manometer and chemical smoke we were able to find one of reasons that the system was struggling to reduce the radon levels to the desired levels. The micro-manometer gave us quantitative data showing us that we were losing PFE from the kitchen to the bedroom. The micro-manometer could not tell us why we were losing PFE in this area, so we relied on chemical smoke to see if there was a leak that could be sealed. Starting at the lower PFE number, smoking the finished wall, closet and cabinet revealed that the smoke was disappearing under one of the kitchen cabinets. After dismantling the cabinet we discovered a heat register that had been covered by the kitchen cabinets. After sealing this register and making some airflow improvements to mitigation system the radon levels went from 5-7 pCi/L to less than 1 pCi/L.



Transite Duct used * as suction point



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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.