

Dr. Wally Akerley Oncologist, Hunstman Cancer Institute:

What is radon? A naturally occurring radioactive material, present everywhere, in the earth, in rock, it leaks up from the ground and mixes in the atmosphere. In the atmosphere it is no big deal, but in closed spaces, like a basement in a house, it is radioactivity that we are breathing in and it is responsible for cancer.

The state of Utah is a relatively warm state and many of our houses have basements; in other parts of the country there are no basements. Radon is a radioactive gas that percolates up from the ground; concentrations are greatest in the basement.

Is there an acceptable level of radon? The EPA has recommended 4 picocuries per liter.

How do you know if you have elevated levels of radon? You can't see it, you can't smell it, and you can't taste it. The only way to be able to recognize it is to test it. radon.utah.gov will offer an inexpensive test (*around \$8*) that gets sent to a national laboratory and you will get your results back in a couple of weeks, and you can do your own testing. (*Note: the website states you will receive your results in 3-5 business days after they receive your sample.*)

What do you really need to know about radon? Radon is a radioactive gas and it causes lung cancer.

Do I need to do something about it? Yes, test for radon. After you test you can act accordingly. That would mean mitigation if you have high levels of radon, or a means of preventing it from coming into your house.

It is important to seek medical attention if you find you have an elevated level of radon? Not necessarily, cancer takes a long time to develop. You can take preventive measures. Most important is to recognize that radon exists. Get your house tested, get it fixed.

Facts about Radon 20,000 people in the US die of radon induced lung cancer each year. Radon can affect smokers and nonsmokers alike. Radon is the 2nd leading cause of lung cancer behind tobacco. In Utah, testing sponsored by the health department, 1 in 3 houses tested have elevated levels of radon.

radon.utah.gov For more Radon information, testing supplies, certified mitigation companies to help you test, radon data, etc

radonbegone.com some members in our subdivision have used this company