

Texas Radon Fact Sheet

TEXAS RADON PROGRAM

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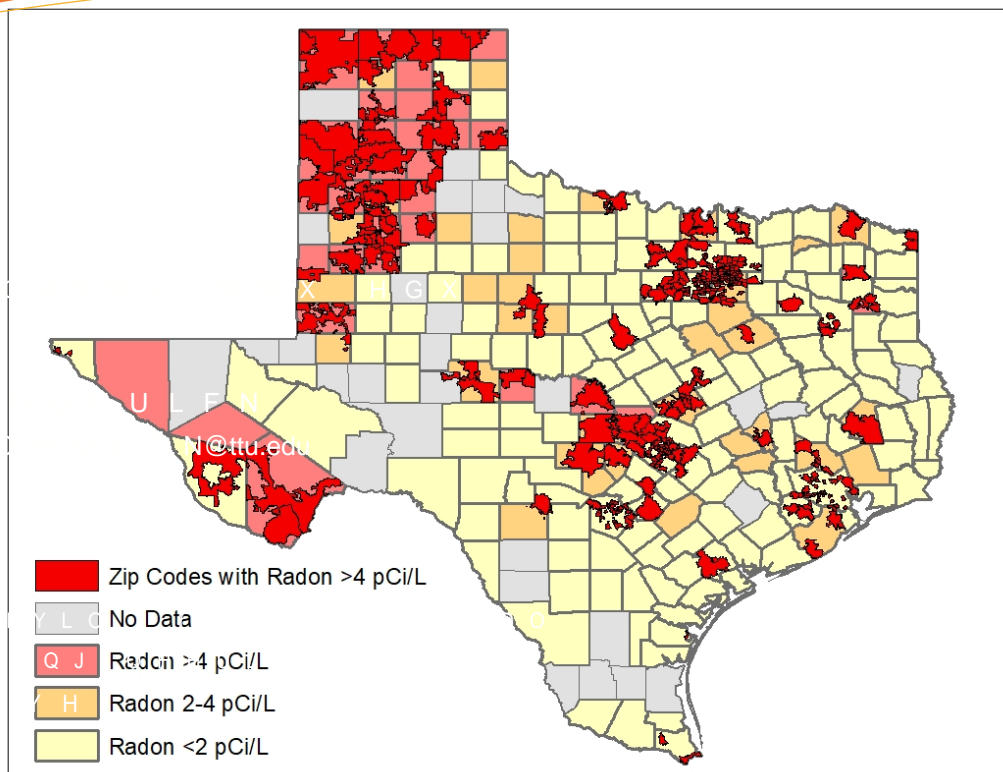
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Texas Cancer Control
Plan

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Through an EPA State Indoor Radon Grants program, Texas Tech University oversees the Texas Radon Program. Greater than 28.5K Texas homes were tested using indoor, passive, activated-charcoal radon kits from Alpha Energy Laboratories, Inc. (Carrollton, TX). [The lab is credentialed by the National Radon Proficiency Program (NRPP).] The home test data, collected from 2001-2016, was used to create the updated EPA radon zones by Texas county. In creating the map, a similar color-coding criteria was used for easy comparison.

The map generated from the fifteen year home test data collection displays the widespread existence of averaged indoor radon levels in Texas. The updated map reveals the vulnerability of more Texas homes to the inhalation hazard of indoor radon products. The early versions of test kits used in the first EPA study have been replaced with improved indoor passive-kit testing technology that more accurately portrays indoor radon levels. However, additional test data is needed to update the counties which lack a sufficient number of tested homes to be represented on the above Texas map.

The revised map demonstrates the existence of high indoor radon potential, >4 pCi/L, in Texas. Some regions previously designated as having moderate levels, 2 - 4 pCi/L, or low radon potential, <2 pCi/L, of indoor radon levels have been re-tested and revealed higher levels. The EPA has emphasized that no safe level of indoor radon exists since dose and exposure duration is important in the long-term outcome. In addition, elevated levels of radon have been documented in zipcodes located all across Texas, even those designated on the map as having low potential. The influence of climate, the diverse and heterogeneous soil geology, and the home's architectural design and construction materials, are significant factors that affect indoor radon accumulation.

Texas Pending/Enacted Legislation

Currently, there is no statutory authority to regulate indoor radon or the qualifications of those persons that perform radon measurement and mitigation services professionally in our state.

Texas Government Code § 2306.053 Authorizes the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs to administer federal housing, community affairs, or community development programs, including the low income housing tax credit program. Regulations adopted under the law (10 Tx. Admin. Code 305) require that environmental site assessments (ESAs) for affordable multifamily housing projects funded by the Department must be conducted and reported in conformity with ASTM standards and meet additional criteria specified in the regulations. Among other things, the ESA report must “assess the potential for the presence of radon on the property, and recommend specific testing if necessary.”

Texas Property Code § 5.008: Requires that certain sellers of single-unit residential property give buyers a written notice that discloses a variety of conditions, including the presence of radon, asbestos, urea-formaldehyde insulation, lead-based paint, or hazardous or toxic waste.