



# RADON

## **Testing for Radon!**

**Exposure to radon in the home is responsible for an estimated 20,000 lung cancer deaths each year.**

**Because radon is completely invisible to sight, smell or taste, special detection kits are necessary to find a potential problem.**

**Testing is the only way to know if you and your family are at risk from radon. EPA and the surgeon General recommend testing all homes below the third floor for radon.**

**For more information: 1-800-SOS-RADON or the number listed below.**



*Modoc Tribe Office Of  
Environmental Quality  
202 D Street Northeast  
Miami, Ok. 74354  
918-542-8176*

Resource EPA Citizens  
Guide To Radon.

## **Radon, what is it and where does it come from?**

Radon is a radioactive gas, which is odorless, colorless, and tasteless. It occurs naturally in nature and thus is one environmental hazard, which is not caused by man.

Radon comes from the natural breakdown (radioactive decay) of uranium, which can be found in nearly all soil and rocks. Because radon is a gas, it moves up through the ground and may seep into a home through cracks and/or other openings in the floor and foundation.

You can't see radon. And you can't smell or taste it. But it may be a problem in your home.

## **How does radon get into a home?**

Radon is a gas, which can move through small spaces in the soil and rock on which a house is built. Radon can seep into a home through dirt floors, cracks in concrete floors and walls, floor drains, sumps, utility access joints, and tiny cracks or pores in hollow brick walls.

In some cases radon may be released into a home through water from a private well or certain natural rocks used in home construction for a wall or fireplace. However, these means of entry are not normally a significant factor in causing a home to have high levels of radon.

## **What are the health risks?**

Radon is estimated to cause many thousands of deaths each year. That's because when you breathe the air containing radon, you can get lung cancer. In fact, the surgeon general has warned that radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer in the United States today. Only smoking causes more lung cancer deaths. **If you smoke and your home has high radon levels, your risk of lung cancer is especially high.** Not everyone exposed to elevated levels of radon will develop lung cancer, and the time between exposure and the onset of the disease may be many years.

## **Radon can be found all over the U.S.**

Radon comes from the natural (radioactive) breakdown of uranium in soil, rock and water and gets into the air you breathe. Radon can be found all over the United States. It can get into any type of building—homes, offices, and schools—and result in a high radon level. But you and your family are most likely to get your exposure at home. That's where you spend most of your time.