

# Radon Quick Facts

## Radon gas,

- causes **15,000 to 22,000** deaths per year, making it the second-leading cause of lung cancer in the U.S.\*
- is produced by the radioactive decay of the element radium
- emanates from rocks and soils, and concentrates in closed spaces
- is a major contributor to the radiation dose received by the population
- has the potential to cause lung cancer, especially for smokers
- soil infiltration is recognized as the most important indoor source
- has radioactive daughters produced in the air and in people's lungs that can hurt lung tissue and cause lung cancer
- -related DNA damage can occur at any level of exposure
- has an average indoor level of 1.3-1.5 pCi/L, and an average outdoor level of 0.2-0.4 pCi/L.
- The EPA's **action level** for radon is **4 pCi/L**

*\*The Health Effects of Exposure to Indoor Radon, February 19, 1998*

National Academy of Sciences

