



Radon Health Risk

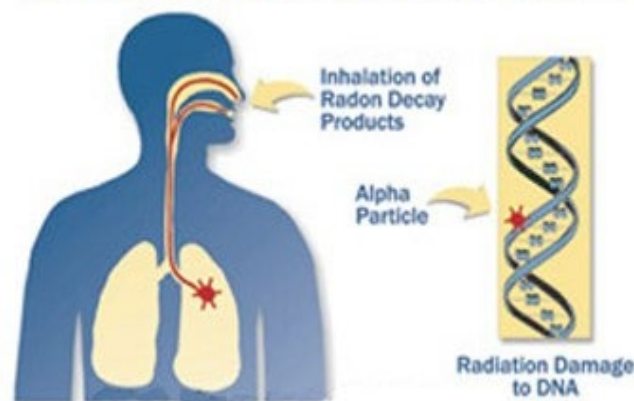
Radon is the 2nd leading cause of lung cancer

21,000 lung cancer deaths per year are because of radon exposure. In Maine, there are 165 radon-induced lung cancer deaths each year and about 310 new radon induced lung cancer cases each year.

Breathing radon gas damages the lung tissue. When a person inhales radon and radon decay products, DNA strands are damaged and repaired. Over time, the repeated damage to the lungs could result in lung cancer.

Symptoms (such as persistent cough, chest pain) of radon-induced lung cancer do not appear until years after exposure when the disease has advanced.

How Radon Causes Lung Cancer



A person who smokes and is exposed to elevated levels of radon is 9 times more likely to develop lung cancer than someone who does not smoke.

Radon Level	Lifetime Risk of Lung Cancer Death (per person) from Radon Exposure in Homes		
pCi/L	Never Smokers	Current Smokers	General Population
20	36 out of 1,000	260 out of 1,000	110 out of 1000
10	18 out of 1,000	150 out of 1,000	56 out of 1,000
8	15 out of 1,000	120 out of 1,000	45 out of 1,000
4	7 out of 1,000	62 out of 1,000	23 out of 1,000
2	4 out of 1,000	32 out of 1,000	12 out of 1,000
1.25	2 out of 1,000	20 out of 1,000	7.3 out of 1,000
0.4	0.73 out of 1,000	6.4 out of 1,000	2.3 out of 1,000