

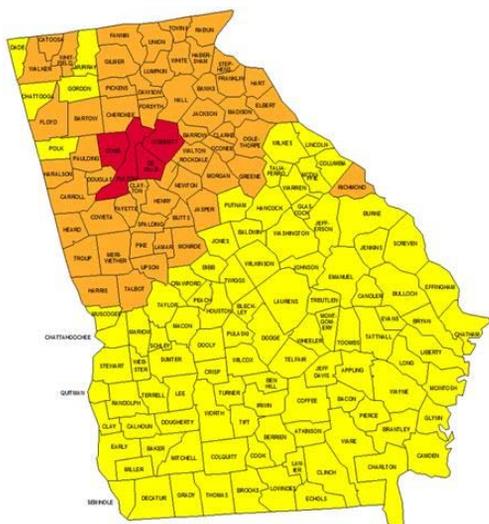
# MCLB ALBANY SAFETYGRAM



## January is National Radon Action Month



What is Radon? Radon is a radioactive gas that is produced by the radioactive decay of Uranium that is present in varying amounts in the soil. Since it is a gas, it mixes with air and is inhaled with each breath. Radon is an Alpha emitter, which means that as it decays, it gives off an Alpha particle. This particle has a very short travel distance in tissue, but can cause considerable damage, especially in the lungs. The result can be Lung Cancer. The accompanying map shows the relative concentrations of Radon in Georgia. The Albany area is in the low potential region.



Radon gas can enter your home from the soil beneath it, and can accumulate within the building. The accumulation can become higher than the background outdoors. The only way to determine the level is to measure it. Kits are available on-line or through building supply or hardware stores.

-  **Zone 1** counties have a predicted average indoor radon level greater than 4 pCi/L (picocuries per liter) (**red zones**)
-  **Zone 2** counties have a predicted average indoor radon level between 2 and 4 pCi/L (**orange zones**)
-  **Zone 3** counties have a predicted average indoor radon level less than 2 pCi/L (**yellow zones**)

Radon Level	If 1,000 smokers were exposed to this level over a lifetime*... This number could get lung cancer	The risk of cancer from radon exposure compares to**...	If 1,000 non-smokers were exposed to this level over a lifetime*... This number could get lung cancer	The risk of cancer from radon exposure compares to**...	WHAT TO DO:
20 pCi/L	260	250 times risk of drowning	36	35 times risk of drowning	Fix your home
10 pCi/L	150	200 times risk of home fire	18	20 times risk of home fire	Fix your home
8 pCi/L	120	30 times risk of fall	15	4 times risk of fall	Fix your home
4 pCi/L	62	5 times risk of car crash	7	risk of car crash	Fix your home
2 pCi/L	32	6 times risk of poison	4	risk of poison	Consider fixing between 2 and 4 pCi/L. (Reducing radon levels below 2 pCi/L is difficult.)
1.3 pCi/L	20	Average indoor radon level	2		
0.4 pCi/L	Average outdoor radon level				

Note: If you are a former smoker, your risk may be between the two levels.

\* Lifetime risk of lung cancer deaths from EPA Assessment of Risks from Radon in Homes (EPA 402-R-03-003).

\*\* Comparison data calculated using the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's 1999-2001 National Center for Injury Prevention and Control Reports.

It's never too late to reduce your risk of lung cancer. Don't wait to test and fix a radon problem. If you are a smoker, stop smoking.

For more detailed information, go to: [www.epa.gov/radon/nram](http://www.epa.gov/radon/nram)

**Risk Management 639-5249**

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