Tribal Radon Outreach

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Spokane Tribal Air Quality Department

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Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe
Start by researching local radon data

- Possible Sources: Online, State Radon Office, IHS, Housing

Spokane Indian Reservation

The Spokane Indian Reservation is rich in uranium deposits. We are home to the only uranium mines in Washington State. This natural geology accounts for high levels found in past radon studies.

The USA Today reported in 1991 that “40% of the 200 homes tested on the Reservation have radon levels several times higher than the national average.” A 1990 study done by Housing and IHS found that over 30% of the homes on this Reservation exceeded EPA’s recommended action level. The levels ranged from 0.2 to 45.6 pCi/L with an average of 3.83 pCi/L (over 2.5 times higher than the national average).

Preliminary radon testing will begin in 2011. For more information on radon testing, radon reduction or other air quality issues, contact Twale Abrahamson, the Spokane Tribal Air Quality Coordinator at (509) 626-4403.

EPA Map of Radon Zones

- Zone 1: Highest Potential (greater than 4 pCi/L)
- Zone 2: Moderate Potential (2 to 4 pCi/L)
- Zone 3: Low Potential (less than 2 pCi/L)

U.S. Surgeon General Health Advisory

“Indoor radon is the second-leading cause of lung cancer in the United States and breathing it over prolonged periods can present a significant health risk to families all over the country. It’s important to know that this threat is completely preventable. Radon can be detected with a simple test and fixed through well-established venting techniques.” —January 2005
Create outreach materials: locally focused brochures, webpage, tribal newspapers, etc.
Posters, billboards, truck magnets

RADON GAS
is the second leading cause of
LUNG CANCER
Leech Lake Air Program
(218) 335-7429

TEST YOUR HOME!
EPA Living Green Campaign in 2012

- TV, Radio, Newspaper, Magazines, Stickers, E-Cards, Web Banners, etc.
- http://www.epapsa.com/campaigns/greensox/

Modified for Tribal Outreach
Direct Community Outreach

Information tables at Health Fairs, Housing Fairs, Powwows

Pink Shawl Powwow
A celebration of hope!
Sponsored by
Susan G. Komen Foundation
Pink Shawl
Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board & Spokane Tribal Health

Saturday October 13, 2012
Alex Sherwood Memorial Community Center,
Wellpinit, WA
7:00 p.m. Grand Entry
All Drums Welcome

If you have been affected by cancer, whether yourself, your spouse/significant other, your parent, or your child and would like to be honored at the powwow please contact: Jessie Stensgar at (509) 258-4517 ext. 143

If you have been a recipient of a Pink Shawl please join us and bring your shawl!
Are radon kits readily available?

- Spokane Tribe purchased kits in bulk, placed at the Tribal Trading Post with outreach materials
- Reminders and signs throughout the community
- Post-testing follow up
Leech Lake

• Provides test kits free of charge to Leech Lake Members and Employees
• Incentives! Free CO detector to households who complete a radon test.
Focused Outreach: Tribal housing, construction and weatherization staff, architects, bidders, etc.
Radio Outreach

- Effective to reach rural reservation communities
- Host a weekly show, InnerTribal Beat on KYRS Thin Air Community Radio in Spokane, WA
- Tuesdays 2-4 Pacific
- 88.1 FM and online at www.kyrs.org
- Incorporate Tribal environmental news, air quality tips, burn ban notifications, with some great music, community announcements, etc.

Photo: Spokane Tribal Air Quality Coordinator and InnerTribal Beat Host, accepting a 2012 EPA Clean Air Excellence Award in Washington DC from Gina McCarthy, EPA Assistant Administrator for the Office of Air and Radiation.
Look for other media outlets

Radio Outreach: Native America Calling

- Native America Calling is heard on 52 stations in the United States and in Canada by approximately 500,000 listeners each week.
- Or Google “Native America Calling AND Radon”

Thursday, January 12, 2012 – Radon and Indoor Air Quality: (listen)
This month is radon awareness month. According to those in the field, radon - a colorless, odorless, naturally occurring radioactive gas found in homes - is the second leading cause of lung cancer in the U.S. and the leading cause among non-smokers. Does your tribe have a radon testing program? What measures is your tribe taking to keep your air quality at a healthy level? What else are you breathing inside your home and workplace? Guests include Vivian Craig (Navajo) Environmental Specialist/Navajo Radon Program, Twa-le Abrahamson (Spokane/Colville/Coeur d'Alene/Navajo) Air Quality Coordinator/Spokane Tribe, and Mansel Nelson, Senior Program Coordinator/ Northern Arizona University's Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals.

- Contact the producers, watch the schedule, propose new shows, speakers, etc.
- Build relationships with local TV news, newspapers, etc.
Questions?

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