

# Tribal Radon Outreach



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Spokane Tribal Air Quality Department

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# Start by researching local radon data

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

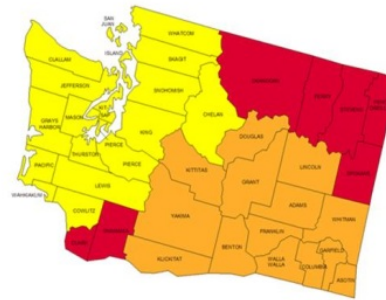
## Spokane Indian Reservation

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 Twa-le 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)

## Spokane Tribal Air Quality Program

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## Spokane Tribal Air Quality Program

# RADON ON THE SPOKANE INDIAN RESERVATION

### 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 news papers, etc.

**What is Radon?**



- Radon is a radioactive element that is a toxic, colorless and odorless gas derived from the decay of radium, and could be in the soil underneath YOUR HOME.
- Radon is the #1 cause of lung cancer among non-smokers in United States killing 25,000 people per year and rising.
- 21,000 of these deaths occurred among people who had never smoked.
- However, if you do smoke or you are around second hand smoke you increase your chances for developing lung cancer by as much as 4,000%.

**How radon enters a house**



**How Do I Test?**

- A radon test kit is an effective and easy way to measure the radon level in your home.
- A short term radon test kit set out for 3-7 days will indicate the level of radon in your home. 90 day long term test kits can be used to further assess high radon levels.



**Where Does Radon Come From?**



- Radon is the decay product of Radium and part of the long decay chain of Uranium in the earth's crust. It is present in almost all rock, soil and water.
- Radon typically moves up through the ground into the atmosphere entering your home through cracks and other holes in the foundation.
- The amount of radon in soil depends on the soil chemistry, which varies from one house to the next.

**Could My Home Have Radon?**

- More than half the state of Minnesota is in a zone that has the highest potential risk for elevated radon levels.
- Big, small, new or old - ALL HOMES SHOULD BE TESTED FOR RADON! Regardless of geographic location, zone designation or soil type.
- The only way to be 100% sure that you and your family are not at risk for lung cancer due to high radon levels is to ...

**TEST YOUR HOME!**

- For information regarding radon testing in your home contact the Leech Lake Air Program.



Long Term Radon Test Kit



# 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/>



**LIVING GREEN**  
STARTS FROM THE GROUND UP.

Living green is making sure the air in your home is healthy for your family to breathe. Test your home for radon and build radon-resistant. It's easy. That's living healthy and green.

Just call 866-730-green or visit [www.epa.gov/radon](http://www.epa.gov/radon)

*living* HEALTHY & GREEN



**LIVING GREEN**

STARTS FROM THE GROUND UP.

Living green is making sure the air in your home is healthy for your family to breathe. Test your home for radon and build radon-resistant. It's easy. That's living healthy and green.

Just call 509-626-4403 or visit [www.epa.gov/radon](http://www.epa.gov/radon)

*living* HEALTHY & GREEN



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](http://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.
- [http://www.nativeamericacalling.com/nac\\_past2012.shtml](http://www.nativeamericacalling.com/nac_past2012.shtml)
- 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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