



KCA TOOL BOX TALK:

Radon

Radon is a naturally-occurring, colorless, odorless, tasteless, radioactive gas. It is formed from the natural radioactive decay of uranium and thorium found in rocks, soil, and water. Radon is considered a known human carcinogen. EPA studies show that exposure to radon and its decay products increases the risk of lung cancer. When a worker occupies an area with a high concentration of radon, the risk of lung cancer increases in proportion to the amount of time exposed and the level of radiation.

Signatures

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Worksite Radon:

- ✓ Where radon concentrations can be confined, enclosed, or restricted within a construction work site, such as a building, sewer, or tunnel could increase the radon concentration level
- ✓ Construction employees working at open air excavation or trenching work sites are less likely to be exposed to hazardous concentrations
- ✓ Test for the permissible exposure limit (PEL) of radon per the Ionizing Radiation standards if excavations/trenches are enclosed or made in geographic areas known to contain high radon levels
- ✓ If radon exposures are determined hazardous, then employers must follow the requirements addressing hazardous atmospheres specified in 1926.651(g)(1)(ii)
- ✓ With hazardous levels of radon, use proper respiratory protection or ventilation in accordance with 29 CFR 1926 Subparts D and E
- ✓ OSHA also has other standards besides the Excavation standards, including 29 CFR 1926.800, Underground Construction, and 29 CFR 1926.65, Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response, which address employee exposures to hazardous air contaminants, including radioactive gases such as radon

For more information visit OSHA REGULATIONS: CFR 29 1926.53; 29 CFR Part 1926, Subpart P; 29 CFR 1926.800; 29 CFR 1926.65

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Teamwork Improves Safety!

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