

The Navy is committed to your personal health and safety. It is our responsibility to provide all workers a safe work environment.

What is the Navy doing about elevated radon levels found in Navy installation buildings on Guam?

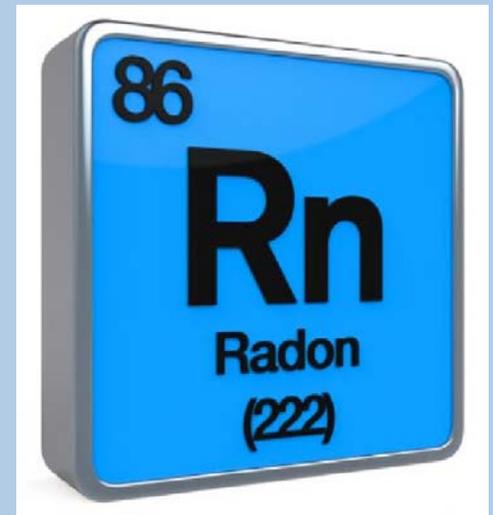
The Navy is taking this seriously. We are committed to your personal health and safety. Short duration exposure risk is minimal, but left unchecked this can present potential health risks.

Naval Base Guam Public Works, in conjunction with Naval Facilities Engineering Command Marianas, upon notification, begun addressing the problem. One of the first steps was to verify building's HVAC system to ensure there was positive air pressure, reducing "radon mining."

Radon mining can be caused by a HVAC system's negative pressure actually extracting radon from the ground beneath the building's foundation. We have found this to be the case in some buildings and have corrected the settings on HVAC systems to ensure positive pressure. Following initial corrective actions we also conduct diagnostic evaluations of the building's foundation for possible radon entry pathways. Once evaluations and corrective actions have been made, we will retest to verify radon levels. The results of the re-test will be shared with the workforce in the building.

For assistance with work related health concerns related to this RADON contact:

Occupational Medicine Clinic at Naval Hospital Guam (2nd Floor next to Audiology) or call 344-9054 to schedule an appointment with the Occupational Medicine Physician



What is Radon?

Radon is a colorless, odorless, tasteless gas that is produced by the breakdown (radioactive decay) of naturally occurring uranium.

Where does radon come from?

Radon is a naturally occurring element. Elevated radon levels have been detected in all 50 US states and throughout the world including the Pacific "footprint" - Okinawa, Japan and Korea No place is considered 100% free of Radon

More information:

- <https://www.epa.gov/radon>

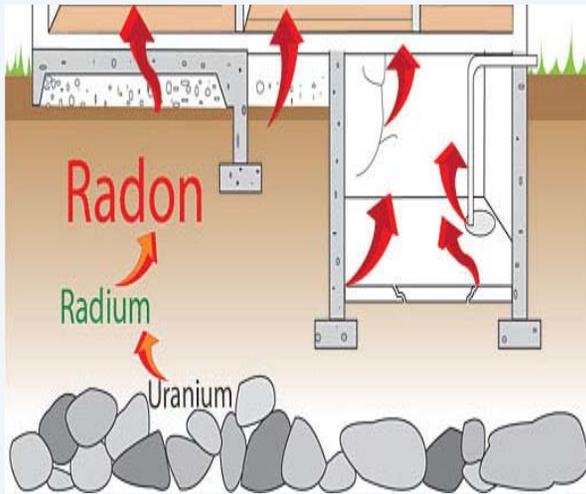
- <https://www.osha.gov>

- <https://sosradon.org/>

- OPNAVINST 5090.1D, CH-25

How does radon enter a building?

- Simple diffusion through building materials, cracks and structural openings, drainage pipes, etc.
- Improper balance or design of HVAC systems.
- Use of exhaust systems with insufficient make-up air (negative pressure).
- Building or shell tightness.



- Long-term exposure to elevated radon levels can lead to an increased risk of developing lung cancer.
- Low level effects of radon are still unclear.

Why are we telling you this?

(Enter current information about testing)

Elevated Radon levels can be corrected through the Navy Radon Assessment & Mitigation Program.

The Navy **Radon Assessment and Mitigation Program (NAVRAMP)** goal is to identify all elevated radon in Department of the Navy buildings, perform corrective actions and maintain those buildings at safe levels.

There are Three Main Phases of the NAVRAMP program:

Facility Screening Phase: Statistically representative sampling to identify buildings with elevated radon levels (> 4 pCi/L). [picocuries per liter]

Assessment Phase: Sampling of all buildings occupied for more than 4 hours per day where the Facility Screening effort identified a structure with potentially elevated levels of Radon.

Includes diagnostic testing and performing corrective actions (mitigation) in buildings with elevated Radon levels to reduce those levels below the OPNAV/EPA action level of 4

Monitoring Phase: An ongoing phase where installations performs Radon testing of newly acquired buildings, periodic retesting of mitigated buildings, and retesting after major earthquake/storm, HVAC modification or building renovation.

