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Radon Awareness Month

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January 4, 2010

Welcome to the January issue of the School Safety Newsletter. With the holidays over it is now time to return to work and prepare for the coming year. Each January is designated “National Radon Awareness Month” by the US EPA to increase the awareness that radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer in the US after smoking. The EPA has a very useful website at www.epa.gov/radon/, which we recommend that you visit even if it is only for the video entitled “Eddie’s Story” – a real-life story of the impact of radon. Fortunately, radon problems can be addressed through engineering controls. Below we have included some basic information on radon to help keep your indoor air as safe as possible. We hope that you find this newsletter useful, and as always, we look forward to providing you with the quality service and information that has made Fuss & O’Neill EnviroScience successful.

Radon Facts:

- * Odorless, tasteless and invisible gas produced by the decay of naturally occurring uranium in soil and water
- * Is commonly found in elevated concentrations where bedrock is close to the surface
- * Can collect in schools and other buildings in basements and other low-level spaces
- * Is a form of ionizing radiation, and a proven carcinogen per the US EPA
- * For smokers the risk of lung cancer is significant due to the synergistic effects of radon and smoking

Recommendations:

- * *Connecticut state legislation* requires that as of 2003 secondary school systems test their qualified buildings every five years – including buildings newly built since 2003. For approval of plans for new buildings and additions, the legislation requires inclusion of radon mitigation construction such as sub-slab pits and piping where the site is in an area of moderate to high radon potential.
- * *CT Department of Public Health (DPH)* advocates that mitigation be performed on rooms and spaces of schools with radon concentrations of four picoCuries per liter (pCi/L) or more – the US EPA action level. However, because there is no known safe level of exposure to radon, the DPH, as well as the US EPA, also recommends that mitigation achieve concentration reductions down to two pCi/L.

Fuss & O’Neill EnviroScience offers services to address elevated radon concentrations in existing and planned building sites. We perform radon testing and interpret the results with recommendations. One of our safety experts can visit your facility or site to review the options with you. Fuss & O’Neill EnviroScience has years of experience providing safety services to schools and is offering this service to help you maintain or increase your safe indoor air quality.

For more information and copies of the regulations contact:

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We look forward to the opportunity to help you in your mission to provide the safest possible teaching and learning environment.