



“Your Connection for Workplace Safety”  
Phone: 920-208-7520

# Weekly Safety Tip

*We're about service, commitment, results, and accountability!*

## SCI Safety Tip: Radon Action Month

Source: <http://www.epa.gov/>

Date: January 14, 2014

### Take Action in January

EPA has designated January as National Radon Action Month. To browse activities that took place in your area and view results during National Radon Action Month; read more about [Radon Leaders Saving Lives](#). If you would like to organize an event in your neighborhood, see the [Event Planning Kit](#) to get started.

### Four Things You Can Do During National Radon Action Month

**1. Test your home** - EPA and the U.S. Surgeon General recommend that all homes in the U.S. be tested for radon. Testing is easy and inexpensive. Learn more about [testing your home](#), including how to obtain an easy-to-use test kit.

**2. Attend a National Radon Action Month event in your area** - Look for radon events in your community. [Contact your state radon program](#) for more information about local radon activities.

**3. Spread the word**- spend time during National Radon Action Month encouraging others to learn about radon and test their homes.

- Tell your family and friends about the [health risk](#) of radon. Encourage them to test their homes.
- [Plan an activity](#) in your community to help raise awareness.
- Write an op-ed or letter to the editor using samples from the event planning resources.
- Attract media attention by working with a local official to get a radon proclamation.
- Download the [Event Planning Kit \(PDF\)](#) (34 pp, 874 K [About PDF](#)) for helpful tips on radon action month projects and activities.
- View or order EPA's [free radon publications](#).

**4. Buy a radon-resistant home** - If you are considering buying a new home, look for builders who use [radon-resistant new construction](#). Read more about radon-resistant new construction, "[Building Radon Out: A Step-by-Step Guide to Build Radon-Resistant Homes](#)".

- Build Green: It's Easy to Build New Homes Radon-Resistant ... "The good news is you can build your customers a safer, healthier, radon-resistant home. The techniques to prevent radon from entering a home are practical and straightforward for any builder. It's an inexpensive way to offer families a benefit that could reduce their risk of lung cancer.

*Our Weekly Safety Tip provides valuable and current safety information relevant for Work, Home & Play.*

*And, you will be kept current on the latest Safety Compliance issues.*



**SCI SAFETY NEWS OR TIP**



**SCI OSHA NEWS OR COMPLIANCE**



**SCI HEALTHYLIVING and WELLNESS NEWS**

**We want to hear from you! Send us your feedback and give us ideas for future safety topics.**

**Let us know how you feel about our new look!**

**Safety Slogan**

**Winter safety is COOL.**

**James Lehrke-SCI**

**Of the week**

And it's a smart way to build trust between you and your customer." Fuad Reveiz, Member of the National Association of Home Builders

- Builders (MP3, 0:0:30, 491 K)

### Exposure to Radon Causes Lung Cancer In Non-smokers and Smokers Alike

#### The Facts...

- **Lung cancer** kills thousands of Americans every year. Smoking, radon, and secondhand smoke are the leading causes of lung cancer. Although lung cancer can be treated, the survival rate is one of the lowest for those with cancer. From the time of diagnosis, between 11 and 15 percent of those afflicted will live beyond five years, depending upon demographic factors. In many cases lung cancer can be prevented.
- **Smoking** is the leading cause of lung cancer. Smoking causes an estimated 160,000\* cancer deaths in the U.S. every year (American Cancer Society, 2004). And the rate among women is rising. On January 11, 1964, Dr. Luther L. Terry, then U.S. Surgeon General, issued the first warning on the link between smoking and lung cancer. Lung cancer now surpasses breast cancer as the number one cause of death among women. A smoker who is also exposed to radon has a much higher risk of lung cancer.
- **Radon** is the number one cause of lung cancer among non-smokers, according to EPA estimates. Overall, radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer. Radon is responsible for about 21,000 lung cancer deaths every year. About 2,900 of these deaths occur among people who have never smoked. On January 13, 2005, Dr. Richard H. Carmona, the U.S. Surgeon General, issued a national health advisory on radon. Read a study by Dr. William Field on radon-related lung cancer in women at [www.cheec.uiowa.edu/misc/radon.html](http://www.cheec.uiowa.edu/misc/radon.html)
- **Secondhand smoke** is the third leading cause of lung cancer and responsible for an estimated 3,000 lung cancer deaths every year. Smoking affects non-smokers by exposing them to secondhand smoke. Exposure to secondhand smoke can have serious consequences for children's health, including asthma attacks, affecting the respiratory tract (bronchitis, pneumonia), and may cause ear infections.

## SCI OSHA Compliance: OSHA Offers Guidance for Classifying Combustible Dust Under HazCom

Source: <http://www.blr.com>

Date: January 15, 2014

OSHA has issued guidance for its inspectors to determine if makers and importers of chemicals have correctly classified products as combustible dust hazards under the revised Hazard Communication (HazCom) Standard (or HCS). Keep reading to learn how OSHA is responding to the controversial classification issue.

The recent guidance, issued as an interpretation and sent to OSHA regional administrators, affects manufacturers and importers of chemicals ("classifiers"), not users.

In March 2012, OSHA amended its HazCom standard to align with the Globally Harmonized System for the Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS). The final rule did not include a definition of the term "combustible dust." Instead, OSHA referred to previous guidance provided in its national emphasis program and through voluntary consensus standards.

The hazard communication standard requires classification of chemicals, but it does not require that chemicals be tested to determine how they should be classified. HazCom asks that classifiers consider the hazards of the chemical as it is transported, as well as hazards that would result from normal use and foreseeable emergencies.

### Methods for manufacturers and importers to classify chemicals

One way for classifiers to gain knowledge about a product is through experience. OSHA explains that if the product has been involved in a deflagration or dust explosion, it should be classified as a combustible dust unless the classifier can show that the conditions of the incident were not normal.

Absent such knowledge, OSHA offers the following methods for determining if a product presents a combustible dust hazard.

**Laboratory testing.** Many voluntary standards recognize ASTM E1226 and ASTM E1515 as reliable means to establish a combustible dust hazard. OSHA's national emphasis program also describes acceptable testing methods.

**Published test results.** The National Fire Protection Association (<http://www.NFPA.org>) publishes lists of test results for various materials. As well, OSHA has published a list of combustible materials based on information provided by the NFPA. OSHA refers classifiers to other sources for dust explosion characteristics. In the absence of specific product data, OSHA says classifiers may rely on published test data for the classification of dusts if these test data apply to a material similar to the product in question.

**Dust particle size.** The NFPA has traditionally defined "combustible dust" as 420 microns or smaller in diameter, and OSHA has used that definition in previous guidance. In the recent memo, OSHA instructs that in the absence of test data, or if the testing is inconclusive, classification may be based on particle size. "If the material will burn and contains a sufficient concentration of particles 420 microns or smaller to create a fire or deflagration hazard, it should be classified as a combustible dust," the agency explains. OSHA has instructed enforcement personnel to find out what information classifiers have used to determine a combustible dust hazard. But OSHA adds, "Classifiers may have other reliable methods to establish whether their product does or does not present a combustible hazard in normal conditions of use and foreseeable emergencies."

## HEALTHY BITES

### Quick Tips for Healthy Living



### Food Allergy

Food [allergy](#) is an abnormal response to a food triggered by your body's immune system.

In adults, the foods that most often trigger allergic reactions include fish, shellfish, peanuts, and tree nuts, such as walnuts. Problem foods for children can include eggs, milk, peanuts, tree nuts, soy, and wheat.

Symptoms of food allergy include

- Itching or swelling in your mouth
- Vomiting, diarrhea, or abdominal cramps and pain
- Hives or eczema
- Tightening of the throat and trouble breathing
- Drop in blood pressure

Your health care provider may use a detailed history, elimination diet, and skin and blood tests to diagnose a food allergy.

When you have food allergies, you must be prepared to treat an accidental exposure. Wear a medical alert bracelet or necklace, and carry an auto-injector device containing epinephrine (adrenaline).

You can only prevent the symptoms of food allergy by avoiding the food. After you and your health care provider have identified the foods to which you are sensitive, you must remove them from your diet.



NIH: National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases

*What do you think?*  
*Send us an email at:*  
[jlconnections@aol.com](mailto:jlconnections@aol.com)  
*See our bold new look @*  
<http://www.safetyconnections.com/>

*In Loving  
Memory of Jessica Lehrke*