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## One of a Kind

**D**avid Hill finished out his term as President of the American Society of Radon Scientists and Technologists (AARST). John Mallon wrote a very nice letter and, with his permission, Radon Today is reprinting it in its entirety. Nicely said John.

*Hi all*

*I just put down the latest "Radon Reporter". The farewell letter from Dave Hill (AARST President) brought back a flood of memories. We in AARST now look forward to the capable leadership of Bill Angell. I'm sure he will make us proud. I feel compelled at this time to ask you all to take a few minutes out of your busy schedules to thank Dave.*

*Dave Hill was elected President of AARST following Teedra Hudson. Teedra followed two Presidents that had resigned before their terms expired and was handed an organization on the brink of bankruptcy with little direction and declining membership. Thanks to selfless dedication and downright hard work, by Teedra and the board members including Dave, the organization survived. Dave's presidency began with AARST in perilous shape. Through his determination, vision and leadership the "basket case" became a "world class" organization.*

*Dave's company, US Radon Systems gained no real benefit from his involvement. His motivation has been strictly altruistic. He has given AARST use of his management skills, communication skills, good humor and logical grasp of complex issues. Through his tireless efforts AARST has assumed the leadership role in radon awareness, education, training and research.*

*The achievements during his terms as president are astounding. AARST has initiated the National Radon Standards Consortium, reinvigorated the annual International Radon Symposiums, formed relationships with the National Home Inspection Organizations, reestablished working relationships with EPA and CRCPD, helped create American Radon Policy Coalition, met with HUD resulting in mandatory radon notification forms, revamped the content and look of the radon reporter, secured radon liability insurance for members and acquired the administration of the National Radon Proficiency Program (just to name a few). Dave also managed to be involved in the organization along with Executive Director Peter Hendrick in the day to day tasks, conflict resolution, member requests etc.*

*AARST could not have had better leadership through this rocky transition. Great Industry leaders get compensated with pay. Great volunteer leaders only get thanks. Dave deserves a lot of thanks!*

*Let me start by saying, Dave, my old friend, thank you for your outstanding service!*

*John Mallon*

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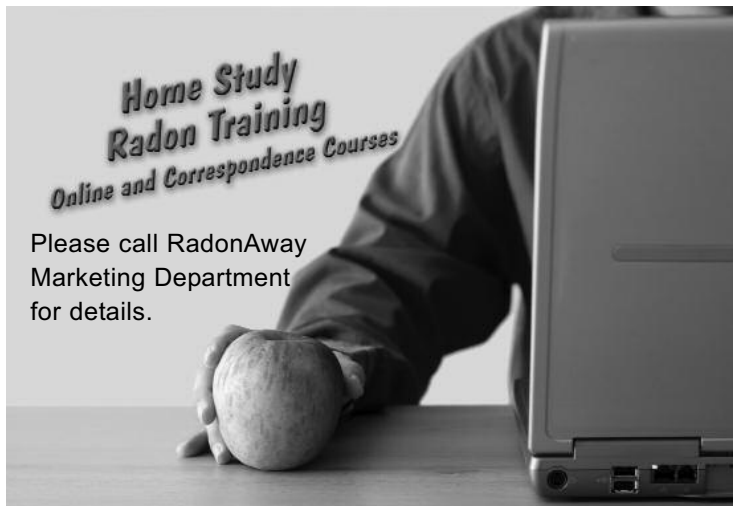
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## When Irish Lungs are Smiling

In international news: A hearty round of applause and perhaps even a standing ovation to our radon conscious friends in Ireland. On June 15<sup>th</sup>, the District Court in Ennis, Ireland, convicted three employers for “failing to comply with a Radiological Protection Institute of Ireland (RPII) direction to measure radon in their workplace.”

The RPII is the authority responsible for following through on The Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act, 2005 which “requires employers to identify hazards in the workplace, assess the risk to health and safety from these hazards and put in place measures to eliminate or reduce the risk. In order to assess the risk from radon, the Health and Safety Authority has stated that all indoor workplaces in High Radon Areas must have radon measurements carried out.” Employers then have six months to comply and send the results to the RPII.

The RPII published maps of High Radon Areas which is defined as an area “where more than 10% of the dwellings are predicted to have annual average radon concentrations above the reference level.” According to RPII data, “Approximately 33% of the country is classified as a High Radon Area.”

The Irish take their radon very seriously. After the court ruling, Dr. Ann McGarry, Chief Executive of the RPII said, “We hope that all employers, particularly in high radon areas such as Ennis, will take note of today’s decision and will recognise (sic) the need to measure radon to ensure their employees are not at unnecessary risk. Long term exposure to radon increases the risk of lung cancer and we estimate that up to 200 people die from lung cancer as a result of radon in Ireland every year. Therefore, we will not hesitate to prosecute employers who fail to measure their radon levels after being directed to do so by the RPII.”

Well we here at Radon Today raise a glass of Guinness and say, “Well done.”

## Cheerio

In other international radon news, there will be a two day international conference in January 2007 at Jury’s Great Russell Street Hotel in Covent Garden, London to explore the radon issue and expand communication.

The theme of the conference is that, “whilst (sic) the causes and effects of radon are relatively well known, it continues to pose a subtle and yet ultimately deadly risk in the workplace and in the home. Emerging health concerns are driving change but there are fundamental difficulties in risk communication and scope for significant discussion on new strategies to inform those at risk.”

Some of the speakers lined up for this event include: Professor William Angell, President, American Association of Radon Scientists and Technologists; Roselyne Ameon, Institut de Radioprotection et de Surete Nucleaire; Augustin Janssens, European Commission and several speakers from the United Kingdom.

So the purpose of the conference is to discuss the difficulties in risk communication and strategies to deal with it.

We wish you a successful and well attended conference.

## Land of the Free, Home of the Radon

Due to a number of recent reports that lung cancer rates among nonsmokers is increasing, the EPA decided to make October 12<sup>th</sup> through the 21<sup>st</sup> National Radon Awareness Week.

Proceeding and during that week the EPA emphasized that radon is not a good thing. “Recent reports of increasing rates of lung cancer among nonsmokers in some parts of the United States and Canada reveal an urgent need for greater awareness of the dangers of radon throughout North America.” Radon is estimated to cause 21,000 lung cancer deaths a year. Radon is also estimated to be at an elevated level in one out of 15 homes.

Another group working to get the word out is The Alliance for Healthy Homes. This organization is “a national, nonprofit, public interest organization working to prevent and eliminate hazards in our homes....These hazards include radon, lead, mold, carbon monoxide, pests, and pesticides.”

Well good. The more groups working to call attention to the radon issue the better. I’d be curious to know if any of our readers noticed any ads or mention of radon during National Radon Awareness Week. Please feel free to e-mail me and let me know.

e-mail us at:fanmail@radonaway.com

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## Still Radon After All These Years

Way back in March 1999 I wrote an article which began, “Imagine that you are young, a doctor and dying of lung cancer when you don’t even smoke. Nobody in your family has a history of cancer. Why you? This is exactly what happened to Chuck Warner of Licking County, Ohio who died at the age of 35 in 1993.”

The article went on to describe the meticulous research Dr. Warner did to determine how he got lung cancer. He concluded, and his fellow doctors, including his oncologists concurred, that it was high levels of radon in his childhood home. When Dr. Warner asked his mother Kathleen to test her house the result was 400 picocuries per liter (pCi/L) – about 100 times the EPA action level.

After Dr. Warner died his mother went public with his story to serve as a warning to other families and to urge builders to include radon systems in new houses. Here it is, fall 2006, and the nightmare continues.

Elizabeth Hoffmann is the current president and representative for CanSAR (Cancer Survivors Against Radon). She has never smoked. She is not around second hand smoke. There is no family history of lung cancer. She has lung cancer. She and her family also investigated a possible cause and are attributing it to radon. Her home test result was 8.6 pCi/L.

CanSAR has a website which begins with the words: Lung Cancer: It’s Not Just From Smoking! The stated purpose for the site is two-fold. “First to put a face on radon, empowering sufferers of an apparent radon-induced lung

cancer (and their families) with a voice. The second reason is to “prevent lung cancer victims from remaining clueless. If you or a family member has been recently diagnosed with lung cancer, it is imperative that you test your home for radon.” According to the website, “One in five people diagnosed with lung cancer have never smoked.”

Our prayers go out to Liz Hoffmann as she had been in remission but is not now. We also thank her for all her work to bring radon to the attention of the public.

## Holy Cow

So we have to mention that the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual International Radon Symposium was held in Kansas City, Missouri in September.

As has been true for many years now there were a lot of interesting topics covered and a wide range of them too. For instance, there was radon in drinking water; radon-resistant construction resistance (hard to write and harder to say) by builders’ associations and one that covered whether or not construction workers who pour concrete are at greater risk of radon exposure since radon concentrations increase after mixing with water.

There is also always a lighter side to the symposiums too. This year I liked the “when in Rome” attitude displayed by RadonAway which picked two winners who won six 10-ounce Kansas City Strip Steaks. The winners were: Tom Schroeder, Radon Technician, Western Iowa Radon Services and Deane Mickle, Mitigator, Radon Reduction. And, because it’s that kind of company, RadonAway even drew a name for the Holstein Cow Jar that the business cards were drawn from. The winner of the jar was James L. McNees, Assistant Director, Office of Radiation Control, State of Alabama Department of Public Health. Congratulations to the three winners.

For those of you who plan ahead, next year’s symposium is in Jacksonville, Florida at the Hyatt Regency.

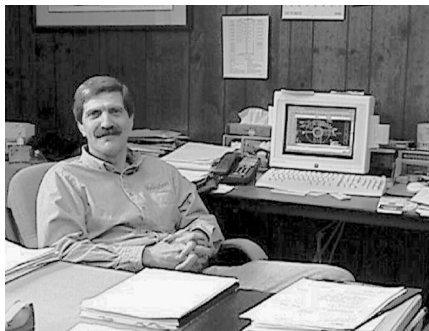




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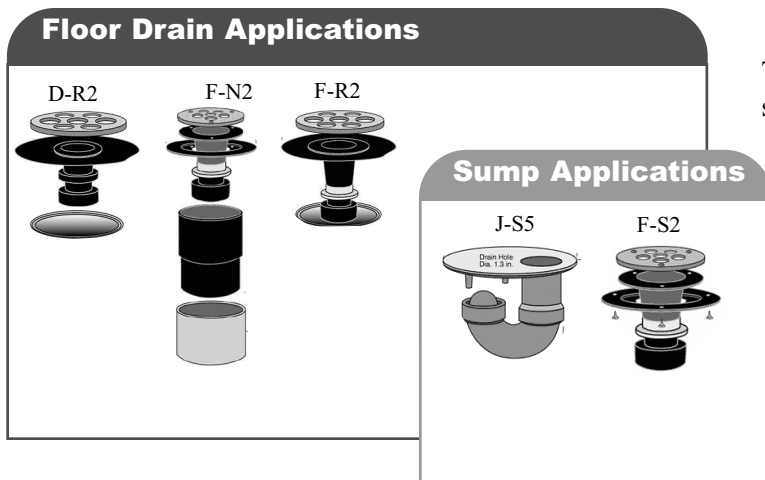
# Dave's Corner

## Dranjer® Floor Drain and Sump Seals

Floor drains and sump pits should be sealed as part of radon mitigation to close off potential radon entry points. This will also prevent potential air leaks to the system that could reduce the pressure field extension or compromise the effectiveness

of the fan system. But in order to maintain the water drainage feature (this can be especially important in a basement) a Dranjer® should be used to seal off the gas flow while still allowing water flow.

There are several types of Dranjer® available for use with floor drains or sump covers including:



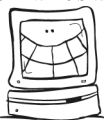
The primary difference between some of these units is the sealing valve. The D-R2 drain retrofit Dranjer® has a plastic valve and the J-S5 sump seal has a plastic ball valve. These plastic valves will open at a fairly low pressure differential that may allow a system air leak and a hissing noise. If this occurs then you can switch to an F-R2 or F-S2 Dranjer®. These units have a brass valve and are rated to stay closed up to a pressure differential of about 1.25" WC. This higher opening pressure may be high enough to stay closed under the fan suction pressure. If the brass valve unit still leaks air, you may not have any other choice than to relocate the system suction point or move the drain to a location with less suction.

## Dave's Corner Quiz:

The answers to the quiz in our last issue are:

- 1) c. Double your pressure.
- 2) b. Diffused Bubble Aeration
- 3) d. All of the above
- 4) c. The fan to overheat and cycle on and off
- 5) d. Cold air cannot hold as much moisture as warm air.

e-mail us at:



fanmail@radonaway.com

Thanks to all who participated in the quiz and congratulations to Norm Rodier of Stafford, Virginia for correctly answering all five questions!