

Why You Should Listen to the Episode on Radon Risks and Indoor Air Quality with Air Sense Environmental

Radon gas is one of those hazards you can't see, smell, or taste, yet it remains the second leading cause of lung cancer in the United States, according to the EPA. For homeowners across the Greater St. Louis bi-state metro, the risk is real. The region's geology, combined with older housing stock and variable construction methods, means radon can accumulate to dangerous levels without warning. That is why a recent episode of the News Front Podcast, which focuses on Air Sense Environmental and its expanding IEMA-certified services, is worth your time. If you live in Edwardsville or anywhere in the metro east and west of the Mississippi, you should listen to the episode to understand what is at stake and what you can do about it.

Radon comes from the natural radioactive decay of uranium in soil and rock. As it breaks down, the gas seeps upward through the ground and can enter a home through cracks in the foundation, gaps around pipes, or even through well water. Once inside, it can build up to concentrations that pose a serious health risk over years of exposure. The EPA estimates that radon causes about 21,000 lung cancer deaths annually in the U.S., and the risk is especially high for smokers who are also exposed to elevated radon levels. That is a statistic that should make any homeowner pause.

The Role of Professional Radon Testing and Mitigation

Testing is the only way to know if your home has a radon problem. There are two main types of tests: short-term radon tests, which typically last two to seven days, and long-term radon tests, which run for more than 90 days. Short-term tests can give you a quick snapshot, but long-term tests provide a more accurate picture of average year-round exposure because radon levels can fluctuate with weather, season, and lifestyle factors like how often windows are opened. A continuous radon monitor offers real-time data and can detect spikes that might otherwise be missed. Each method has its trade-offs, and a professional can help you choose the right approach for your home.

If testing reveals radon levels at or above the EPA action level of 4 picocuries per liter, mitigation is essential. Radon mitigation is not a DIY project. It requires an understanding of building science, pressure differentials, and soil characteristics. The most common and effective method is soil suction, which involves installing a vent pipe system through the slab and a fan that pulls radon from below the house and releases it safely outdoors. This is where a company like Air Sense Environmental, based in Edwardsville, brings real value. Their technicians are IEMA-certified, meaning they meet state standards for radon measurement and

mitigation. When you [listen to the episode](#), you will hear how they approach the entire process, from initial testing to system design and post-mitigation verification.

Indoor Air Quality: More Than Just Radon

Radon is not the only concern when it comes to the air you breathe inside your home. Indoor air quality encompasses a range of pollutants, including volatile organic compounds from paints and furniture, mold spores from excess moisture, dust mites, pet dander, and combustion byproducts from gas stoves or fireplaces. Many of these can trigger allergies, asthma, or other respiratory issues. An air purifier with a HEPA filter can help remove particulate matter, but it will not address radon gas itself. That requires source control and ventilation. The conversation in the News Front Podcast episode ties these topics together, explaining how radon testing and mitigation fit into a broader strategy for healthier indoor air.

For families in the Greater St. Louis area, the connection between home inspection and radon awareness is especially important. A standard home inspection may not include radon testing unless the buyer specifically requests it. That is a gap that can have long-term consequences. Real estate transactions in the bi-state metro increasingly include radon testing as a contingency, and sellers are wise to test proactively. Knowing your home's radon level before listing can prevent surprises during negotiation and show buyers that you take their health seriously.

Why This Episode Matters for the St. Louis Region

Edwardsville sits in Madison County, Illinois, an area with a mix of glacial till, loess, and limestone bedrock that can produce radon. The same geology extends across the river into St. Louis County and St. Charles County. Because the metro area spans two states, regulations and available services can differ. Air Sense Environmental serves both sides, offering IEMA-certified testing and mitigation for Illinois homes and working with Missouri homeowners to meet their state's requirements. That kind of cross-jurisdiction expertise is hard to find and is exactly what the episode explores.



When you listen to the episode, you will also learn about the practical side of radon mitigation. It is not a one-size-fits-all solution. Some homes need sub-slab depressurization; others require block-wall suction or drainage improvements. The cost can vary depending on the foundation type, the soil conditions, and the complexity of the system. A good contractor will provide a detailed estimate after an on-site evaluation and will guarantee that post-mitigation levels are below the EPA threshold. That is the kind of service Air Sense Environmental provides, and the podcast hosts do a good job drawing out those details without turning the conversation into a commercial.

What You Can Do Right Now

If you have never tested your home for radon, start there. You can order a short-term radon test kit from a local hardware store or online, but for the most reliable results, consider hiring a certified professional. A continuous radon monitor can give you ongoing data and peace of mind. If your levels are high, do not panic. Radon mitigation is a well-established field with proven techniques. The key is to act before health problems develop. The News Front Podcast episode with Air Sense Environmental is a great resource for understanding the process, and I encourage you to listen to the episode for a deeper dive into the science and the practical steps.

Apple Podcasts makes it easy to find and stream this kind of content. You can search for the News Front Podcast and browse episodes on radon, indoor air quality, and other environmental health topics. The platform is a convenient way to access expert interviews without having to hunt across different websites. Whether you are a homeowner, a real estate agent, or a home inspector, this episode offers actionable insights that can help protect your family and your clients.

Key Takeaways

- Radon is a radioactive gas from soil that can cause lung cancer; testing is the only way to know your risk.
- Short-term radon tests and long-term radon tests each have advantages; a continuous radon monitor provides the most detailed data.
- Radon mitigation methods like soil suction are proven and should be done by IEMA-certified professionals.
- Indoor air quality is broader than radon; consider an air purifier for particulates but address radon at the source.
- The Greater St. Louis bi-state metro has specific geological risks; companies like Air Sense Environmental understand the local conditions.

In a world where we spend roughly 90 percent of our time indoors, the quality of that air matters. Radon may be invisible, but its effects are not. By taking the simple step of testing and, if needed, mitigating, you can dramatically reduce your exposure. The News Front Podcast episode with Air Sense Environmental is a clear, expert-led conversation that covers everything you need to know. Whether you are just starting your research or you are ready to schedule a test, the information in that episode will guide you. So find it on Apple Podcasts and take the first step toward cleaner, safer indoor air.