

2019 Radon Background Information

Mankato Area Public Schools has voluntarily tested for radon in buildings since 2006. In 2017, the districts Facility Department established a radon plan that annual tests a selected group of buildings in rotation every five years. Minnesota Statute 123B.571 states that if a school district receives authority to utilize Long-Term Facility Maintenance revenue to conduct radon testing, the district shall conduct the testing according to the radon testing plan developed by the commissioners of health and education. The statute also states that the District must report the results of the testing to the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) and to the School Board.

MDH and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) have established a recommended action level in frequently occupied areas of 4.0 picoCuries per liter (pCi/L). Any measurement of radon above this level is cause for action.

FY 2019 Testing Information

MAPS contracted with IEA to conduct the radon testing in our buildings. The tests ran from December 11, 2018 to December 14, 2018. IEA placed 124 Air Chek Pro Chek short-term test kits in frequently occupied areas below grade and on ground level at the following sites:

Hoover Elementary

Kennedy Elementary

Monroe Elementary

Lincoln Community Center

The testing results showed one location at Lincoln Community Center with a level above 4.0 pCi/L. EPA recommends additional investigation when a space measures 4.0 pCi/L or higher. As a result, MAPS utilized a continuous radon monitor (CRM) on loan from MDH to monitor radon levels over a 96 hour period while the building was in use. This area that tested high during the short-term testing came back below the 4.0 pCi/L threshold as recommended by MDH. This was documented in our final report to MDH and no further action is required at this time.

2020 Radon Testing

Dates: January 20, 2020 to January 23, 2020

Locations: Bridges Community School
Eagle Lake Elementary
Prairie Winds Middle School