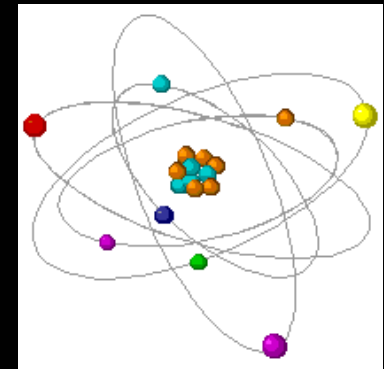


# EPA's Radon Reinvigoration Strategy



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STAPPA/ALAPCO Meeting,

December 1-3, 2004

# Radon Overview

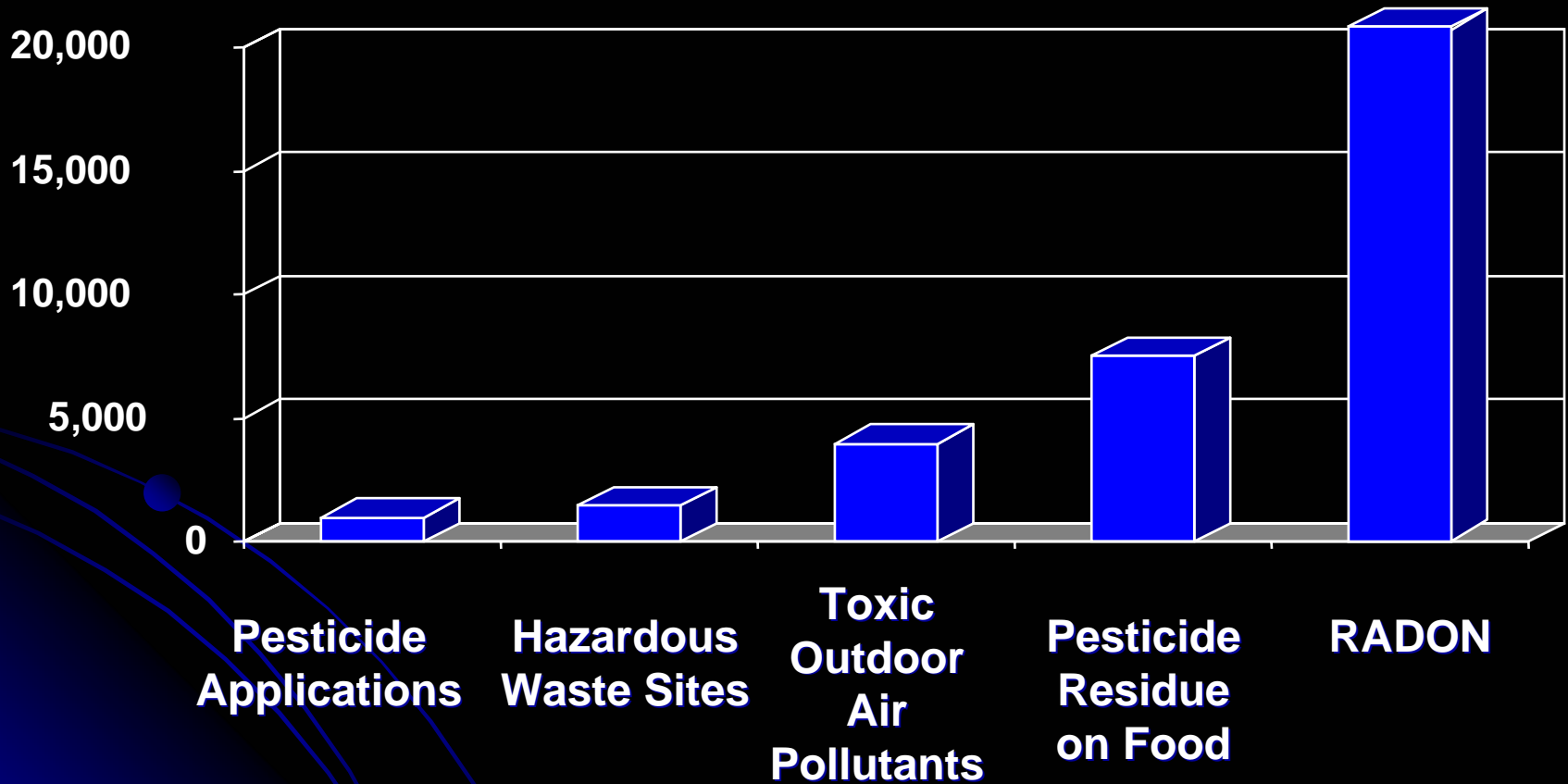
- Radon is a naturally-occurring radioactive gas which causes lung cancer
- It can be found all over the U.S.
- Radon is odorless and colorless
- It enters homes primarily from the soil below
- Nearly one out of every 15 homes in the U.S. is estimated to have a radon level above the EPA's action level (4pCi/L)

# Strong Science on Risk

- Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer
- Human data: miner exposure
- NAS BEIR IV and VI, updated radon risk assessment:
  - Estimated 20,000 annual lung cancer deaths
- Surgeon General recommends all homes be tested for radon

# Environmental Risk Comparison

## Estimated Annual Cancer Deaths



# EPA's Radon Program

- EPA's radon program started in 1989
- Aggressive Information Campaign
  - Voluntary
  - Cooperative Partners
  - Information to Build Public Demand (PSAs, publications, Radon Action Month)
- Fix high-risk homes (above 4pCi/L)
- Build new homes radon resistant

# Notable Success, But Not Good Enough

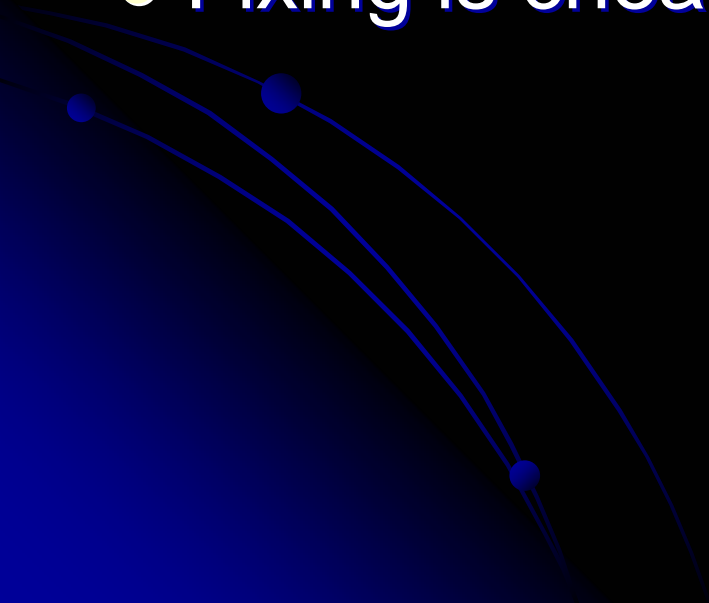
- 20 million homes tested of 100 million total
- 770,000 high-risk homes fixed, out of 7.5 million estimated
  - 450 Lives saved annually
- 1 million homes built radon resistant
  - 50K out of 300K new homes built annually
  - 120 Lives saved annually
- But...many more lives still at risk

# Challenges

- Radon odorless, colorless, invisible
- “Where are the bodies”?
- A Home is a Castle
- No clear villain...



# Radon Revitalization

- Radon is preventable public-health problem
  - Testing is easy
  - Fixing is cheap (\$1150 on average)
- 



# A New Approach

- Bundle radon within healthy homes and built environment issues:
  - Moisture Study
  - Air+
- Recruit new partners and renew existing relationships
- Coordinate with other Federal agencies to leverage,
  - e.g. FHA Home Inspection form

- Partner with air quality advocates
  - Clean Air Act Advisory Committee – new radon subcommittee
- Partner with state and local air quality officials
  - \$200,000 RFP to cultivate radon risk reduction programs that can be replicated nationally
  - Tag EPA PSAs with state program information

# Food for Thought...

- What can state air programs do to increase action on radon?
  - How can EPA and STAPPA/ALAPCO work together to help make this happen?
  - Next steps?
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