

***TEST.FIX. SAVE a LIFE***

***ALABAMA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SYSTEM RADON EDUCATION PROGRAM MOVES FORWARD TO MAKE SURE THAT FAMILIES ARE LIVING HEALTHY AND GREEN IN WEST HUNTSVILLE ALABAMA***

In July 2010 Pat Smith, Alabama State Radon Coordinator and Walter Rodgers, Madison County Urban Regional Extension Agent found out that the Habitat Humanity for Madison County were going to build a set of habitat homes in Northwest Huntsville. Since Madison County has been determined through research base studies to be a Zone 1 radon county and has the second highest potential level of radon in homes tested, The Alabama Radon Team was excited to have an opportunity to put the RRNC training into action that they had acquired in February 2010 . The RRNC training and Mitigation Training Course was sponsored by The Alabama Cooperative Extension System and The Southern Regional Radon Training Center, Auburn University. The Alabama Radon Team set out to start collaboration between the Alabama Cooperative System Radon Program and Habitat Humanity for Madison County to see if the four habitat homes could be built Radon Resistance New Construction (RRNC). The homes were scheduled to be built in late spring of 2011. To achieve this goal, Pat Smith, Walter Rodgers, Walter Harris, Madison County Extension Coordinator, Suanne Gilbert Radon Program Outreach Administrator (ACES), agreed to set up a planning meeting with Habitat Humanity for Madison County. Mr. Walter Rodgers initially contacted Mr. Don Adams, Construction Project Manager for Habitat Humanity about The Alabama Radon Education Program becoming a partner with the Habitat Humanity for Madison County. Mr. Adams agreed to attend the meeting and to bring Mr. Ben Steele, the Assistant Construction Project Manager. Pat Smith contacted Mr. Dennis Miller, Alabama Certified Mitigator about the Humanity Habitat project to see if he would become a partner with Alabama Cooperative Extension System Radon Program volunteering to put the radon reduction system in the four habitat homes.

## PLANNING MEETING SEPTEMBER 2010

During the planning meeting an overview of The Alabama Radon Education Program was presented by Pat Smith. The presentation involved information on radon and its health risks in Madison County. The Madison County Zip Code map was used as a tool to show that homes in the proposed site for the habitat homes tested at or above 4pCi/l. Mr. Walter Harris expressed that his office would give any help necessary to carry the project out. Suanne Gilbert would take care of the ordering of the supplies with the help of the mitigator. Mr. Walter Rodgers will be the on-site contact for the mitigator in terms his needs from ACES.



Dennis Miller, Alabama Certified mitigator discussed the mitigation steps of installing the radon systems slab on grade foundation.

### Outcomes of Planning Meeting

- (1). Mr. Don Adams expressed that he would be glad to have the radon systems installed in the four habitat homes.
- (2). The proposed date to start the habitat homes was April, 2011.
- (3). The Alabama Radon Education Program agreed to work with the mitigator and supply the materials needed to installed the radon ready systems through the SIRG grant.
- (4). Dennis Miller, certified mitigator agreed to volunteer to put the radon system in the four homes.
- (5). Pat Smith , Walter Rodgers with the assistance of Elaine King Madison County Administrative Assistant produced a draft sign showing that Alabama Cooperative Extension System Radon Program was one of the sponsors supporting the Habitat Humanity Project. The sign was printed by Osburn Sign Company and placed on the board in front of each home along with other sponsors.
- (6). Once the homes passed the inspection, the Alabama Radon Education will give the homeowners a radon bag containing radon information and a free test kit and instructions on how to do a post mitigation test in their homes for radon once the homes are occupied.
- (7) Radon Ready signs will be placed in the yards of the homes during National Radon Action Month 2012 as a means to support future RRNC projects.



## CELEBRATION

On June 23<sup>rd</sup> the Habitat Humanity of Madison County held a dedication celebration event with families who will occupy their new healthy and green homes.

Pat Smith says that “one touch” is vital in bringing people together to bring resources in our radon communities to produce healthy housing.

The Alabama Radon Education Program has received requests from other Neighborhood Associations in Madison County to conduct radon awareness programs to educate their members. The Alabama Radon Program was approached by Franklin and Lawrence County Habitat Humanity about putting the RRNC in future habitat homes. Builders in Madison County requested information on RRNC. Radon test kits were purchased by those attending the celebration through the Madison County Extension Office.

“The door was open and now ACES is committed to keep the door open” as we continue to move the radon message “*Test. Fix. Save a Life*” in our radon communities in Alabama.

