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**RADON AWARENESS IN IRELAND; AN ASSESSMENT OF THE
EFFECTIVENESS OF RADON ROAD SHOWS**
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<p>Presentation preference: Poster Only</p> <p>Major scientific thematic areas: TA6 - Radiation Protection of the Public and the Environment</p>	<p>In late 2004 the Radiological Protection Institute of Ireland (RPII) initiated a series of radon road shows in areas designated as “High Radon Areas¹” in the RPII’s national radon survey of homes. The main objective of these road shows was to provide information to a local audience on the risks of exposure to radon. These road shows target both employers and householders. Each road show has the same general format</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A presentation and/or meeting with a major employer representative group within the area. The purpose is to make employers aware of the risks associated with exposure to radon in the workplace and to highlight their obligations under current Irish health and safety legislation regarding radon in the workplace. • An information stand on radon manned by RPII staff members in a local shopping centre or other similar area. This provides those concerned about radon with accessible information on radon exposure risks, how to measure radon and the steps a home owner could take to reduce radon concentrations where necessary. • Where possible RPII staff members visit one or more schools in the general area. A short presentation on radon was given to students and students were given an opportunity to ask questions <p>Maximising media exposure to publicise our visits is vital to the success of these visits. Each visit is preceded by a Press Release whose main aim is to brief local and national media on the radon issue so as to achieve maximum publicity mainly through radio and television coverage. In general the media are very interested in the whole radon area and RPII staff members have given 57 radio and 10 television interviews to date since the commencement of this initiative.</p> <p>The four road shows carried out to date have been successful in encouraging householders to carry out radon measurements. Since the start of the road shows to the present, the RPII has seen a 44% increase in the number of householders requesting radon measurements compared to the corresponding period of the previous year. However the road shows have been less successful in encouraging employers to measure radon with similar numbers of employers measuring radon during both these periods. It is anticipated that these radon road shows will continue during 2006.</p>
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¹ A High Radon Area is a 10 km Irish national grid square where it is predicted that greater than 10% of dwellings have average radon concentrations above the Irish National Reference Level for dwellings of 200 Bq/m³