



MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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January is National Radon Month

January is a good time to test a home for radon levels as homes tend to have the highest levels of radon during the winter months. Radon is a naturally occurring, invisible, odorless gas that is harmlessly dispersed in outdoor air, but when trapped in homes and buildings it can possibly reach harmful levels. Radon is the number one cause of lung cancer among non-smokers.

Radon gas occurs when uranium breaks down in the soil, giving off a radioactive gas. While radon is more common in some areas of the state than others, radon levels high enough to cause concern have been found in homes throughout all Wisconsin counties. Common paths of entry for radon include earth floors, sump pump wells, floor drains, gaps in floors, around pipes, visible and microscopic cracks, holes left from form ties, construction joints and hollow concrete block walls.

Radon does not cause direct respiratory problems, headaches or other immediate health dangers. However, prolonged exposure to radon increases the chances of lung cancer.

Testing homes for radon is easy, and the best time to test is now, while the house is closed up for the winter. Radon, measured in picocuries per liter (pCi/L), is a measure of radioactive material. If levels exist above 4pCi/L it is recommended that the home owner install a mitigation system specifically designed to vent radon gas from the home. Anyone needing a mitigation system installed to fix the problem can go to www.lowradon.org to find a professional contractor.

Pierce County Public Health Department offers radon test kits to the public. Short-term test kits are \$15, while a long-term test kit is \$25. The kit is simple to use and comes with instructions on how to use it and where to mail it when testing is complete. Results of the test are mailed directly to you.

Call Pierce County Public Health Department at (715) 273-6755 for more information.

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TALK TO US

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OUR MISSION

To promote healthy behaviors, prevent disease and injury, and protect against environmental hazards