



Media Release

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January is National Radon Action Month Test Your Home for Radon - A Small But Important Step in Protecting Your Family's Health

PIERCE COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH WANTS COUNTY RESIDENTS TO BE AWARE OF THE HEALTH RISKS FROM RADON.

Tests conducted in Pierce County from 2003-2012 showed that over 50% of the homes tested had elevated radon levels.

Radon is here and it is a problem. Pierce and St. Croix counties are Zone I radon sites, which means the areas have a high likelihood of elevated radon.

Radon is an odorless, colorless gas naturally produced by breakdown of Uranium in soil, rock and water. Radon can enter homes through the basement and is thought to cause up to 22,000 lung cancer deaths each year in the United States.

Radon can be a problem in homes of all types: old homes, new homes, drafty homes, insulated homes, homes with basements, and homes without basements. Local geology, construction materials, and how the home was built are among the factors that can affect radon levels in homes. Radon levels can vary greatly from home to home in the same neighborhood. The only way to know if you have a radon problem is to test for it.

Testing homes for radon is easy and the best time to test is now, while the house is closed up for the winter. Radon is measured in picocuries per liter (pCi/L). A curie is a measure of radioactive materials. Any test result above 4 pCi/L is unhealthy.

If you discover that your home does have elevated levels of radon gas there are simple solutions available. The installation of a specially designed ventilation system referred to as "mitigation" can channel the radon gas out of your home.

Radon test kits are available at Pierce County Public Health Department, 412 West Kinne Street in Ellsworth or call (715) 273-6755 for more information.

Short term test kits are \$10, Long term test kits are \$20.

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