



Public Service Announcement

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January is National Radon Action Month

Jefferson County – The Environmental Protection Agency has designated January as National Radon Action Month. Jefferson County Public Health encourages all residents to have their homes tested for radon gas, a naturally occurring gas that you can't see, smell, or taste, but it could be present at a dangerous level in your home. Radon is the leading cause of lung cancer deaths among nonsmokers in America and claims the lives of about 500 Coloradans each year.

Elevated levels of radon have been found in homes all across the country. In Colorado, 52 of the 64 counties are at high risk for radon. Due to the gas's unpredictable nature, two houses right next to each other may have very different radon levels. Testing is the only way to know for certain if your loved ones health are at risk.

Since short-term tests require closed windows and doors, January is an excellent month to test for radon. Residents in Jefferson and Gilpin counties can purchase short-term test kits for \$10.00 at the Environmental Health Division's office in Golden, 1801 19th Street. Long-term test kits are available at local hardware stores, supermarkets and other retail outlets.

If high levels of radon are found in your home (above four picocuries per liter of air), installing a mitigation system is recommended. It takes more than just opening a window. Qualified contractors can seal up cracks and install ventilation systems to prevent the radon from collecting.

For more information on radon, radon testing, and radon mitigation, call 1-800-846-3986 or JCPH Environmental Specialist John Moody at 303-271-5714.

Resources:

Jefferson County Public Health website – www.jeffco.us/health

Environmental Protection Agency website - www.epa.gov/radon/nram/