

Waukesha County: Encourages residents to test for radon gas

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(Waukesha, WI) – Waukesha County health officials encourage homeowners to test for radon gas during National Radon Action Month in January. Radon exposure is the second leading cause of lung cancer (behind cigarette smoking) and thousands of homes in southeast Wisconsin have elevated levels of radon.

“It is important to test your home for radon to know it is safe,” said Waukesha County Executive Paul Farrow. “Radon test kits are a simple first step in protecting yourself and your family’s health.”

Radon is an odorless radioactive gas that is naturally present in the ground and can enter buildings through their foundations. Both old and newer homes are susceptible to dangerous levels of radon. Between 40 and 50 percent of homes tested in Southeast Wisconsin have elevated airborne concentrations on the main living level where people spend the most time, according to state data.

January, when homes are closed up for the winter, is an ideal time to test your residence’s radon levels. Radon testing requires only a small amount of time and effort. A testing kit costs about \$10 and is available at home supply stores, through the Southeastern Wisconsin Radon Information Center (SEWRIC) at 262-896-8300, and through your local public health agency.

More information on radon testing: www.WaukeshaCounty.gov/RadonTesting

More information about radon in Wisconsin: www.lowradon.org