



State of Utah

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NEWS RELEASE

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Radon: Test, Fix, and Save a Life
Governor Herbert Declares January "Radon Action Month"

(Salt Lake City, Utah) – The Utah Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Radiation Control alerts Utahns to make testing their homes for radon gas a high priority. To promote awareness and to prevent radon from taking its toll, Governor Herbert signed a Declaration today recognizing January as "Radon Action Month."

"Exposure to indoor radon is the 2nd leading cause of lung cancer in the United States," warned DEQ Radon Manager John Hultquist. "Since elevated levels of radon gas can occur in three out of every ten homes in Utah, I strongly encourage all Utah residents to test for radon. Testing is the only way to know if you and your family are at risk from radon."

Radon, a natural decay product of uranium, is a radioactive gas released from rock, soil, and water. It is colorless, odorless, and tasteless. Radon is classified by EPA as a carcinogen, causing about 21,000 deaths annually from radon-induced lung cancer in the U.S.

"Winter is the perfect time to test for radon in homes," said Hultquist. "Radon test kits are inexpensive and can be purchased at any hardware store or on the Division's Web site at a discounted price of \$6. I urge all residents to go to www.radon.utah.gov or call 800-458-0145 to purchase a radon test kit. Testing is easy and it's the only way to know if your home has elevated levels."

If elevated levels are detected, there are various methods for reducing radon concentrations to acceptable levels. While there are costs involved in fixing a radon problem, it is money well spent when considering lung cancer has only a 15% survival rate five years after diagnosis.

For more information about Radon Action Month activities, hiring a certified professional, or how to test your home, visit www.radon.utah.gov.

Below are some of the popular myths circulating about radon gas:

1. Homes without basements will not have elevated levels of radon. **FALSE**
2. Homes built west of I-15 will not have a radon problem. **FALSE**
3. New homes will not have a radon problem. **FALSE**
4. Radon isn't real...it's an EPA scam. **FALSE**
5. Homes are harder to sell if they have radon problems. **FALSE**