



State of Utah

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NEWS RELEASE
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Radon, the Silent Killer

Governor Herbert Declares January “Radon Action Month”

Salt Lake City, Utah – More Americans die of lung cancer than any other cancer. Next to smoking, radon is the biggest risk factor for lung cancer. To raise radon awareness and promote action, Governor Herbert has declared January 2011 as “Radon Action Month.”

Highlights of the 2011 Radon Action Month will include:

- State radon poster contest winners Marissa Funke (age 12), Jessica Edmondson (age 11), and Alisha Kirkland (age 9) will be honored Tuesday, December 28, Governor’s Office;
- Free CE Radon Course (core credit) will be offered to Real Estate professionals, Wednesday, January 12, 9:30–11:30 a.m. at the Utah Department of Environmental Quality (195 N. 1950 W., first floor board room);
- Cancer Survivors Against Radon will be taking “CAPITAL STEPS” to radon action on Wednesday, January 26 at noon on the state Capitol steps; and
- For \$6 short-term radon test kits (includes laboratory analysis) will be available to order by phone (800-324-5928 ext. 22) or online: www.radon.utah.gov.

Any home can have a radon problem. The Utah Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Radiation Control (DRC) alerts Utahns to make testing their homes for radon gas a top priority. "Exposure to indoor radon kills thousands of people every year," warned DRC 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."

Radon, a natural decay product of uranium, is a radioactive gas released from rock, soil, and water. It is a known human carcinogen, causing about 21,000 deaths annually.

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"Winter is the perfect time to test for radon in homes," said Hultquist. "Radon test kits are inexpensive and can be ordered through our Web site at a discounted price. I urge all residents to test their home for elevated radon levels. Testing is the only way to know."

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 information about hiring a radon certified professional, how to test your home, or other upcoming Radon Action Month events, visit www.radon.utah.gov. or call the radon hotline: 800-458-0145.

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