



State of Utah

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NEWS RELEASE

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Governor Takes Action on Radon

Governor Herbert Declares January 3rd - 9th as "Radon Action Week"

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 3rd – 9th, 2012 as “Utah’s Radon Action Week.”

Highlights for the 2012 National Radon Action Month will include:

- State radon poster contest winners Anna Pinnock (age 13), Maren Maxfield (age 12), and Spencer Bickel (age 12) will be honored by the Governor;
- Free CE Radon Course (core credit) will be offered to Real Estate professionals and building contractors. Go to website calendar of events for details: www.radon.utah.gov ;
- Free Public Radon Presentation, Cottonwood Height Stake, 6890 S Whitmore Way (2225 E);
- Cancer Survivors Against Radon will be taking “CAPITAL STEPS” to radon action on Wednesday, January 25 at noon on the state Capitol steps; and
- \$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, please visit www.radon.utah.gov. or call the radon hotline: 800-458-0145. Keep radon on your radar!!

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