



State of Utah

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PRESS RELEASE

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Capitol Steps to Radon Action

On January 25, 2012, at 12 noon Cancer Survivors Against Radon (CanSAR) will join together on the Utah State Capitol steps to promote "Capital Steps to Radon Action." Their goal is to raise radon awareness and education. The Utah Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Radiation Control is encouraging concerned individuals to join this event and share their stories of radon gas and lung cancer. To participate, please show up with your friends and neighbors.

"January is recognized as National Radon Action Month and is an opportune time to test all homes and buildings for elevated levels of radon," said Radon Program Coordinator Christine Keyser. Radon gas is known as the leading cause of lung cancer in nonsmokers by organizations such as EPA, American Lung Association, National Cancer Institute and Center for Disease Control." The World Health Organization (WHO) Handbook on Radon indicates indoor radon at elevated concentrations poses a considerable risk of lung cancer for individuals and requires mitigation.

"The general public is often unaware of the risks associated with indoor radon and communication on the risk and recommendations for reducing indoor radon is greatly needed," said Keyser. "Prevention in new homes tends to be more cost-effective than mitigation of new homes; however, most radon levels can be lowered in all homes by qualified licensed and certified radon professionals. Elevated radon levels can be present in all types of homes, new, old, brick, frame, basement or no basement."

According to WHO the majority of radon-induced lung cancers are caused by low and moderate radon concentrations rather than by extremely high radon concentrations, because in general fewer people are exposed to high indoor radon levels. Because radon gas cannot be seen, it has no odor and is tasteless, most people have no idea if elevated levels of radon are present in their home or not. The only way to know this is to perform a simple test. The EPA action level of radon is 4.0 picocuries per liter of air (pCi/L); however, the World Health Organization has a reference level of 2.7 pCi/L. The Division offers discounted \$6 test kits through the state radon program. Much information concerning radon tests and proper mitigation can be obtained from [www.radon.utah.gov](http://www.radon.utah.gov) or by calling 800-458-0145.

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