



State of Utah

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Environmental Quality

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NEWS RELEASE
Tuesday, January 2, 2012
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Radon Program Coordinator

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 2013 as “Radon Action Month.”

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. The U.S. Surgeon General advises all residents to test their home for elevated radon levels.

Any home can have a radon problem. The Utah Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Radiation Control (DRC) recommends Utahns make testing their homes for radon gas a top priority. "Exposure to indoor radon kills thousands of people every year," warned DRC Radon Program Coordinator Christine Keyser. "Since approximately one-third of the homes tested in Utah have elevated levels of radon gas, 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 test kits are available at any hardware retail store or \$7 kits may be ordered on the Division's website at www.radon.utah.gov or by calling 800-324-5928.

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.

The following events will highlight this year's Radon Action Month:

- State radon poster contest winners Tucker Nixon (American Fk Jr. High), Eric Anderson (Summit Academy, Draper), and Skylee Anderson, Meadow Elementary, Lehi will be honored Tuesday, January 2, 2013, Governor's Office;
- Free CE Radon Courses (2-core credits) will be offered to Real Estate professionals;
- Free CE Radon Course (3-core credits) will be offered to homebuilders;
- Cancer Survivors Against Radon (CanSar) will be taking “CAPITOL STEPS” to promote radon action on Wednesday, January 23, noon on the Utah State Capitol steps; and

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- Governor's challenge to all state employees to test their homes for radon; and
- Radon Symposium will be held at the LDS hospital at 2 p.m., Jan. 28 at the Huntsman Education Ctr.

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.

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