



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Tooele County Receives Award for Radon Work

The Utah Department of Environmental Quality recognized Vickie Rolfe and the Tooele County Health Department for efforts to test Tooele County schools for radon and for increasing radon awareness and mitigation.

Tooele County Health Director, Myron Bateman, Deputy Director, Jeff Coombs, and Environmental Specialist, Vickie Rolfe accepted the award at a presentation in the Radiation Control Board meeting on January 8, 2013.

While making the presentation, Utah Indoor Radon Program Coordinator, Christine Keyser, said the Tooele County Health Department, and other recipients, “were recognized today by the Radiation Control Board for their outstanding support to the Indoor Radon Program and for their willingness to promote radon action in Utah.”

Bateman said, “I think this is a very important program for the health department to be involved with. The more people we can encourage and help get their homes tested for radon, the more action will be taken towards prevention of lung cancer.”

The health department first started testing schools for radon in 1993. Since that time the health department has tested and retested all public and private schools in Tooele County. As a result, the Tooele County School District has taken steps to mitigate radon in the schools with high test results.

“Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer and the first leading cause for individuals who do not smoke. If the work we do prevents even one person from developing lung cancer, it is well worth the effort,” said Coombs. “We appreciate all the support we receive from the school district, our county commissioners, and the public at large.”

(more)

As January is National Radon Action Month, the Tooele County Commission is approving a proclamation which provides for radon detection kits for all county employees, funded through a health department grant, and which encourages all county residents to test their homes for radon.

Rolfe said, “I have been doing this for a long time because helping people be safe and healthy is something I feel very passionately about and enjoy doing every day. This award is not only a surprise, it’s a great honor. Our entire environmental staff made this possible.”

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