

PRESS RELEASE

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January is Radon Action Month *De Pere Health Department Urges Residents to Test Their Homes for Radon*

DE PERE - January is National Radon Action Month and De Pere Health Department is encouraging everyone in the City of De Pere to test their homes for radon.

According to the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, an estimated 1 in 10 homes in Wisconsin have high radon levels. Radon is a naturally occurring, radioactive gas that enters homes through gaps or cracks and can build up inside. Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer and is estimated to cause approximately 21,000 deaths each year in the U.S. Because of the ways that radon and tobacco smoke damage the lungs, high radon levels are especially dangerous for people who smoke. Their risk of lung cancer is 10 times higher than non-smokers.

A person cannot see, smell, or taste radon. The only way to know if a person has high radon levels is to test for it. Home radon tests are simple and inexpensive – and can help save lives. Free short term radon test kits are available, for city residents, while supplies last. To obtain a free test kit this January, stop at the De Pere Health Department at 335 S. Broadway, De Pere or call (920) 339-4054.

High radon levels can be reduced by fixing the home and installing a radon mitigation system. Radon reduction work generally requires a trained professional. More than 100 radon mitigation contractors in Wisconsin are nationally certified to install mitigation systems if elevated radon levels are found. Thousands of systems are installed in existing homes in Wisconsin each year.

For additional information on local radon levels by zip code, how to test, the health risk, how to reduce radon levels in a house, or to find a certified radon mitigation contractor, look at the Wisconsin Department of Health Services website at www.lowradon.org.