



*"Inspiring Better Health for All"*

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### January is Radon Awareness Month

Did you know that radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer overall and the leading cause of lung cancer for non-smokers?

Exposure to radon gas is one of the major contributors to lung cancer nationally, yet many people aren't aware that an easy-to-use test kit can tell them if their home has high radon levels. Radon causes more lung cancer among non-smokers than second hand smoke. An estimated 21,000 lung cancer deaths per year among non-smokers are caused by radon, according to the U.S Environmental Protection Agency and Surgeon General, and approximately 962 of these deaths are in Wisconsin. Fortunately, this cause of lung cancer is largely preventable, and the first step is to test your home. If elevated radon is found, it can be corrected with a radon mitigation system.

Radon, an odorless radioactive gas naturally present in the ground, can enter buildings through their foundations. One in 10 Wisconsin homes have elevated levels. Radon concentrations in the air can be measured with a test kit available from hardware stores and The Forest County Health Department. Reducing radon exposure and radon induced lung cancer in Forest County depends on supporting and encouraging our residents to test their homes.

More than 100 radon mitigation contractors in Wisconsin are nationally certified to install radon mitigation systems if elevated levels are found. Thousands of systems are installed in existing homes in Wisconsin each year. Newly constructed homes should include features recommended by the National Association of Home Builders to reduce radon entry. If you would like a list of radon mitigation installers that service the Forest County area, you can call The Forest County Health Department.

Radon is found all over the state of Wisconsin and the only way to know if your house has elevated levels is to test. Test kits are available at The Forest County Health Department for a cost of \$15.00. If you would like more information about radon, go to [www.lowradon.org](http://www.lowradon.org) or call the Forest County Health Department at 715-478-3371.

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