



HEALTH & COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT MEDIA RELEASE

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Free Test Kits for National Radon Action Month

KALAMAZOO, Mich. —Recognized by the United States Environmental Protection Agency as National Radon Action Month, January is a time to raise awareness about radon—the colorless, odorless, radioactive gas responsible for taking the lives of approximately 21,000 Americans annually. It’s the leading cause of lung cancer among non-smokers in the U.S., and since there are no warning signs or symptoms from radon exposure, testing is the only way to know if a building and the people in it are at risk.

“Just like carbon monoxide, radon can’t be detected by the human senses, meaning it could be present at dangerous levels in a home or building,” said Lucus Pols, Environmental Health Division Manager. “Fortunately, testing is simple, and recommended this time of year as doors and windows are typically closed due to the colder weather.”

The Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services Department, located at 311 E. Alcott Street in Kalamazoo, is handing out free short-term radon test kits during the month of January. These kits, which usually cost \$10, can detect the invisible gas and are available at the Environmental Health Division front desk.

Radon comes from the natural breakdown of uranium in soil, rock, and water, but can sneak into buildings through cracks in the foundation. Over time, these radioactive particles can build up in the air, threatening those who breathe it in with an increased risk of lung cancer.

Long-term test kits that test the air for at least three months and up to one year are available online from the State of Michigan Indoor Radon Program at www.mi.radon.com.

To learn more about radon, contact the Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services Department’s Environmental Health Division at 269-373-5210 or visit www.kalcounty.com/eh.

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