

JANUARY IS NATIONAL RADON ACTION MONTH

According to the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services radon is a colorless, odorless and tasteless gas that is produced by the natural breakdown of uranium in rocks and soils. "Radon becomes a problem for people when that breakdown continues to occur inside buildings and people breathe in the particles" said Stefanie Davis, Environmentalist with the Pike County Health Department. Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer in the United States and the leading cause of lung cancer in non-smokers. Radon is not known to cause other types of respiratory illness, like asthma.

Less than 0.5% of the homes in Pike County have been tested for radon

(Source: Bureau of Environmental Epidemiology Indoor Air Quality Database 2005 - 2015.) "Testing in Missouri has shown that 18 percent of all homes have radon levels above the level considered dangerous (4.0 picocuries per liter of air)," said Bob Schultheis, natural resources engineering specialist, University of Missouri Outreach and Extension. ***"The best time to test your home for radon is during cooler weather, when it is 60 degrees or less. The house should be closed up at least 12 hours before and during the test,"*** said Schultheis. The DHSS radon program offers free short-term radon test kits for Missouri residents from October 1st thru March 31st each year, to test your home for radon. Missouri residents can register on-line for a free test kit at <https://health.mo.gov/living/environment/radon/testkit.php> or by contacting the Bureau of Environmental Epidemiology toll-free at 866-628-9891 or 573-751-6102.

WHY IS RADON DANGEROUS?

Radon is responsible for

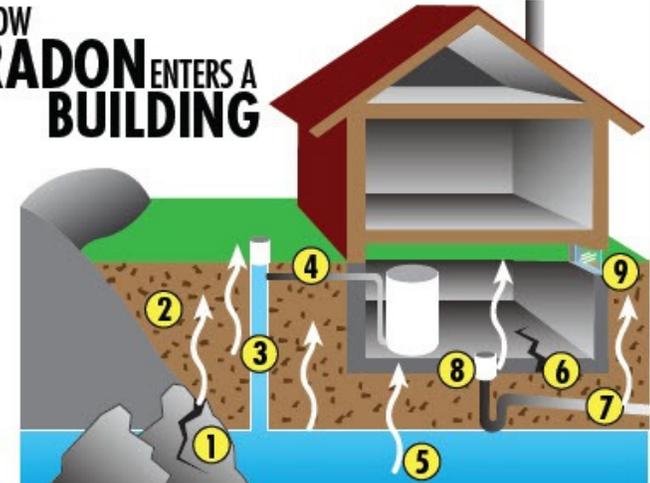
21,000

lung cancer deaths per year



58 DEATHS PER DAY

HOW RADON ENTERS A BUILDING



1) FRACTURED BEDROCK	4) LOOSE FITTINGS	7) DRAINS
2) SOIL	5) GROUNDWATER	8) SUMP
3) WELL WATER	6) CRACKS	9) WINDOWS



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FREE RADON TEST KITS

The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services in cooperation with the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) provides educational resources about the danger of radon exposure and encourages Missourians to test their homes for radon. The EPA estimates radon is responsible for more than 21,000 lung cancer deaths per year nationwide. For additional information, contact Denise Kettles at Denise.Kettles@health.mo.gov or 573-751-6102. You can also contact Stefanie Davis, Environmentalist with the Pike County Health Department at sdavis@pikecountyhealth.org or 573-324-2111 for more information or assistance with registering for your free radon test kit.