

For Immediate Release

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Branch-Hillsdale-St. Joseph  
Community Health Agency

### Radon-A Silent Killer

Coldwater, Michigan, The Branch-Hillsdale-St. Joseph Community Health Agency is Working with the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency in a nationwide campaign to educate Americans about the dangers of radon exposure and to encourage them to take action to protect their homes and families.

Radon is a naturally occurring, invisible, odorless, tasteless gas that is dispersed in outdoor air, but which can reach harmful levels when trapped in buildings. Scientists have long been concerned about the health risk of radon, but never before has there been such overwhelming proof that exposure to elevated levels of radon causes lung cancer in humans.

The U. S. Environmental Protection Agency estimates that radon is responsible for more than 20,000 lung cancer deaths per year. Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer in the U. S. after smoking and the leading cause of lung cancer among non-smokers. “However,” says Mary Proctor from the Community Health Agency” because you can’t see or smell radon, people tend to down play the health effects and ignore the possibility that there might be a silent killer in their homes.”

Radon levels vary around the country, but Branch, Hillsdale and St. Joseph counties are in an area in Michigan that has the highest recorded levels of radon. The only way to know if you are at risk of radon exposure is to test your home.

Conducting a radon test is as easy as opening a package, placing the detector in a designated area, and after a set number of days, send the detector back to a lab for analysis. Many kits are available at your local hardware store for around \$25.00 or you can get a free test kit from the Branch-Hillsdale-St. Joseph Community Health Agency. Stop in at one of our three locations to pick up your test kit, or for more information about radon visit our Health Department web site at: [www.bhsj.org](http://www.bhsj.org) and click on Environmental Health.

Testing your home, and making repairs if necessary, is a small price to pay for the health of your loved ones.

#### Office Locations:

Branch County  
570 N Marshall Rd.  
Coldwater, MI 49036

Hillsdale County  
20 Care Drive  
Hillsdale, MI. 49242

St. Joseph County  
1110 Hill St.  
Three Rivers, MI. 49093