

Branch-Hillsdale-St. Joseph Community Health Agency

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January is Radon Action Month

Coldwater, MI. January is Radon Action Month. Radon is an odorless, tasteless, radioactive gas that naturally occurs in soil and rock. The Branch-Hillsdale-St. Joseph Community Health Agency wants to remind you that this is the time of the year to test for Radon.

Radon is usually diluted and travels up into the atmosphere and causes no damage. But sometimes, it gets trapped in our homes, coming in through cracks and leaks. Overtime, inhaling this gas can lead to lung cancer. According to the Surgeon General, radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer in the U.S. and the leading cause of lung cancer among non-smokers. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency reports that exposure to radon results in more than 21,000 lung cancer deaths each year and over 600 in Michigan.

Testing your home is the only way to find out if you have elevated radon levels. Radon is especially prominent in the tri-county area, meaning you could be at risk of exposure. According to the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, the average national indoor radon level is 1.3 pCi/L (picocuries per liter) and the average indoor radon level for homes in Branch, Hillsdale and St. Joseph Counties range from 3.6 pCi/L to 7.0 pCi/L. An acceptable level of radon is around 4pCi/L. Since there are no warning signs, it is vital that every home is tested. The testing yields the most accurate results

when windows and doors are shut, so that the air being tested is a better representation of what you and your family are breathing in on a daily basis.

Take Action and be sure to Test! Testing is easy and inexpensive. Radon testing kits are available at the Branch-Hillsdale-St. Joseph Community Health Agency and are free of cost. To pick up a testing kit and for more information on radon, visit our website at www.bhsj.org and stop in at one of our three locations:

Branch County
570 N. Marshall Rd.
Coldwater, MI 49036
(517) 279-9561, ext. 0106#

Hillsdale County
20 Care Drive
Hillsdale, MI 49242
(517) 437-7395, ext. 0311#

St. Joseph County
1110 Hill St.
Three Rivers, MI 49093
(269) 273-2161, ext. 0233#

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