

Branch-Hillsdale-St. Joseph Community Health Agency

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Michigan Radon Workshops: Reducing Radon in New Construction

Coldwater, MI. People building a new home understand the excitement and challenge of getting it just right. Hours are spent picking out cabinets, flooring and fixtures. But just how much time is spent in making sure the home is ‘radon’ safe? The Branch-Hillsdale-St. Joseph Community Health Agency wants to assist builders, building officials, realtors and others in knowing how to build homes and facilities that comply with national standards for radon resistant new construction and is promoting the ***‘Michigan Radon Workshop: Reducing Radon in New Construction.’***

Radon is an odorless, tasteless, radioactive gas that naturally occurs in soil and rock. When it gets trapped in homes, it is inhaled by unsuspecting residents. Overtime, inhaling this gas can lead to lung cancer. Nationwide, radon exposure is the second leading cause of lung cancer. For Branch, Hillsdale and St. Joseph Counties, radon is a significant health issue because each of the counties have been identified as zone 1 counties by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) – meaning that many homes located in the counties have a predicted average indoor screening level greater than what is considered acceptable.

According to Paul Andriacchi, Environmental Health Director for the local health department, “Those that attend the Reducing Radon in New Construction workshops will learn about the national standards for radon resistant new construction and on Michigan building code requirements for EPA Zone 1 counties. They will also hear about how best to mitigate radon during the build, so as to protect its occupants from unacceptable levels of radon exposure.” In addition, conference attendees will receive important resource information including the national standards. Andriacchi adds “We

recommend that radon measurement and mitigation professionals, building code officials, builders and realtors attend this important conference.” Continuing education credits are available for many professionals.

The conference is sponsored by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality and will be held in Kalamazoo on:

October 25th at the Fetzer Center, Western Michigan University

The half-day conference begins at 8:30 a.m. and costs \$35 which includes a continental breakfast and all workshop materials. To register, visit <https://www.regonline.com/builder/site/?eventid=1867824> or call **517-284-6888**. To learn more about radon and your risk, visit our website at www.bhsj.org and click on the ‘Quick Info About Health Topics’ button located on the left sidebar.

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