

MEDIA RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

Teton County Health Department Offers Radon Detection Kits

January 7, 2019 – As part of National Radon Awareness Month, Teton County Health Department’s Environmental Health Division wants to remind residents to test their homes for radon. Short-term radon detection kits are available for \$10 at the Teton County Health Department, located at 460 E. Pearl Avenue, from 8am – 5pm Monday through Friday.

Radon is a colorless, odorless, tasteless gas that forms naturally when radioactive metals break down in rocks, soil, and groundwater. This gas enters homes and buildings from the soil beneath, through cracks in the floors and walls and other openings in the foundation. When people breathe radon, the radioactive decay products damage lung tissue, which can increase the likelihood of developing lung cancer. In fact, exposure to radon is the leading cause of lung cancer among non-smokers in the United States, and it is the largest non-medical radiation exposure. Teton County, along with most of Wyoming, is a Zone 1 Radon Area, meaning predicted average indoor screening levels are greater than the EPA’s threshold of 4 picoCuries per liter of air (pCi/L).

The Teton County Health Department Radon Program focuses on raising radon awareness among community members. The Teton County Health Department strives to increase the number of homes and establishments in Teton County that test for radon. In 2018, the Teton County Health Department sold 146 test kits that were returned for analysis. Test results revealed an average of 4.8 pCi/L in Teton County homes, which is above the EPA’s threshold of 4 pCi/L. If elevated radon levels are detected, residents are urged to get their homes inspected or mitigated by a certified professional radon inspector.

For more information, please call the Environmental Health Division at 307-732-8490, or stop by our office for a test kit.

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