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National Radon Action Month

The McDonough County Health Department announces that **January** is **National Radon Action Month**. **Radon kits** are available for **\$6.00** throughout the month of January.

Radon is a silent killer. It can't be seen, tasted or smelled. Exposure to radon increases a person's risk of developing lung cancer. In the United States, radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer. It is the leading cause of lung cancer in non-smokers. For those who smoke and have high levels of radon in their homes, the risk of lung cancer is considerably greater than that of non-smokers.

Radon occurs naturally in soil, rocks, and groundwater. Radon is found in every county in Illinois. In McDonough County, 46 percent of the homes that were tested had a radon level of 4 picocuries per liter of air (pCi/L) or higher. It is recommended that homes with radon levels of 4pCi/L and above take action to lower the levels.

How do you test your home for radon? Radon kits are readily available, inexpensive, and easy to use-- just follow the directions. For more information on radon or radon test kits, call the McDonough County Health Department at 309-837-9951 or visit www.state.il.us/iema.