



State of Utah

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NEWS RELEASE

January 5, 2009

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Radon Action Alert

Governor Huntsman Declares January "Radon Action Month"

(Salt Lake City, Utah) – The Utah Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Radiation Control alerts Utahns to make testing their homes for radon gas a high priority. In conjunction with the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) National Radon Action Month and to promote radon awareness in Utah, Governor Huntsman has declared January "Radon Action Month."

"Exposure to indoor radon is the 2nd leading cause of lung cancer in the United States," warned DEQ Radon Manager John Hultquist. "Since elevated levels of radon gas can occur in three out of every ten homes in Utah, I strongly encourage all Utah residents to test for radon. Testing is the only way to know if you and your family are at risk from radon."

Radon, a natural decay product of uranium, is a radioactive gas released from rock, soil, and water. It is colorless, odorless, and tasteless. Radon is classified by EPA as a carcinogen, causing about 21,000 deaths annually from radon-induced lung cancer in the U.S.

"Winter is the perfect time to test for radon in homes," said Hultquist. "Radon test kits are inexpensive and can be ordered on our Web site at a discounted price during January. I urge all residents to go to www.radon.utah.gov or call 800-458-0145 to purchase a \$6 radon test kit. Testing is the only way to know if your home has elevated levels."

If elevated levels are detected, there are various methods for reducing radon concentrations to acceptable levels. While there are costs involved in fixing a radon problem, it is money well spent when considering lung cancer has only a 15% survival rate five years after diagnosis.

For information about January's radon educational activities, hiring a radon certified professional, or how to test your home, visit www.radon.utah.gov.

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