

# *News from the Wyoming Department of Health*

Tuesday, December 31, 2013

## **Radon Testing and Education Important in Wyoming** January is National Radon Action Month

Because radon can't be seen or smelled, testing is the only way to know how much of the potentially dangerous gas is present in homes or workplaces, according to the Wyoming Department of Health.

Radon is a naturally occurring radioactive gas that can seep from the ground into buildings. "It gets trapped inside, building in intensity and posing a long-term health risk of lung cancer," said Steve Melia, radon program manager with the Wyoming Department of Health.

Melia estimated 35 percent of Wyoming homes have elevated radon levels. "This can be true of any home in Wyoming even if other homes in the same neighborhood do not."

"Radon has no odor, no color or any other obvious characteristic to make us think about it," Melia said "To know whether threatening levels of radon may be present in your house or office you must test for it."

Testing for radon is inexpensive. If elevated radon levels are found, radon problems can be fixed by qualified contractors. "The costs are not overwhelming and are comparable to many common home repairs," Melia said.

Radon test kits are available for \$7.95 at <http://www.wyomingradon.org>. Purchase one test kit and receive a second test kit free as long as supplies last.

Architects, appraisers and real estate agents can earn up to seven continuing education units by attending radon education classes; physicians and other healthcare providers can earn up to one continuing medical education unit by attending hospital-sponsored classes. Junior and senior high school science teachers may request radon presentations for science and health classes.

To learn more about test kits, radon education options or radon facts, please contact the Wyoming Radon Program at 307-777-6015, [steve.melia@wyo.gov](mailto:steve.melia@wyo.gov), or visit [www.wyomingradon.org](http://www.wyomingradon.org) online.

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