

## January is Radon Awareness Month

### Take action to keep your home safe from radon

You want your home to be a place where you and your family feel safe and healthy. Testing your house for radon is one way to make sure it is.

Radon is a natural gas that has no smell, color or taste. It comes from the ground. Radon can get inside a house through cracks or openings in the walls or foundation. The only way to know if your home has radon is to test for it.

#### Why is it important?

Radon is dangerous to your family's health. Every year, radon contributes to more than 21,000 lung cancer deaths in the U.S. It is the number one cause of lung cancer for people who do not smoke. About ½ of homes in Goodhue County have high levels of radon gas.

#### Test your home for radon this winter

Tests for radon are cheap and easy to use. The test kit is placed in the lowest occupied area of the home for 4-7 days and mailed back in the postage paid package for lab testing. Goodhue County Health & Human Services has test kits available for \$10. They can be picked up Mon.-Fri., 8a.m.-4:30pm at 426 W. Ave. (Citizen's Building), Red Wing, MN, 55066, or at Goodhue Co. Land Use Management, 509 W. 5<sup>th</sup> St. (Gov't Center), Red Wing. Visit the [Minnesota Department of Health website](#) to learn more about radon, find more locations for test kits, or to order one online. Kits may also be found at hardware stores.

If the test results are four picocuries per liter of air or higher, installing a radon mitigation system will remove radon from the air in your house and put it back outside. This makes the air in your house much healthier to breathe. Information about how to mitigate radon from homes can be found on the MDH website, including a list of licensed contractors. The cost of mitigation is minimal compared to the cost of lung cancer. Questions? Call 651-385-6114.



*Photo source: The Environmental Protection Agency. Goodhue County, and much of Minnesota, has high levels of radon in the ground. It is important to test your house for radon.*

