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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Radon Action Week in Michigan

Governor John Engler has issued a proclamation declaring the week of October 20-26 to be Radon Action Week. Your local Community Health Agency is participating in a Radon Awareness Campaign and is emphasizing testing your home during this winter heating season.

Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer in the United States. Only smoking causes more lung cancer deaths.

Radon is a naturally occurring radioactive gas found in almost any kind of soil or rock. It enters buildings through openings in the foundation, floor or walls (sump openings, crawlspaces, floor/wall joints, cracks, etc.) and long term exposure to elevated radon levels can increase your risk of lung cancer.

One in eight Michigan homes is likely to have an elevated radon level and in some counties, like Branch, Hillsdale and St. Joseph, more than 40% of the homes could have a problem!

Radon is tasteless, odorless, and colorless and it has no warning symptoms. **THE ONLY WAY TO KNOW IF YOUR HOME HAS A RADON PROBLEM IS TO TEST YOUR HOME!**

Test kits are available at your Community Health Agency at **NO CHARGE**. In Hillsdale County, call 517-437-7395, ext. 111. In Branch County, call 517-279-9561, ext. 106. In St. Joseph County, call 269-273-2161, ext. 233.

FREE drinking water test kits for arsenic are also available. Arsenic occurs naturally in rocks, soil, air, plants, animals and drinking water. Long-term exposure to arsenic has been linked to stomach problems, memory loss, fatigue, cancer, heart disease, diabetes and other health problems. Children, seniors and people with continuing medical illnesses are particularly at risk. The only cost to consumers is about \$3 in postage to send the sample to the lab.

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