



# ***KENDALL COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT***

811 W. John Street, Yorkville, IL 60560-9249 630/553-9100 Administration Fax 630/553-9506



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

## **To Your Health Radon: Protect Yourself and Your Family**

The month of January is National Radon Action Month as declared by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Therefore, the Kendall County Health Department wants to remind county residents of the serious danger that radon gas poses in our homes. The EPA estimates that radon causes about 21,000 deaths from lung cancer among Americans every year. In fact, exposure to indoor radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer after cigarette smoking.

Radon is an odorless, tasteless and invisible gas produced by the decay of naturally occurring uranium in soil and water. While radon poses no immediate health risk, breathing it over prolonged periods can present a significant health risk to families all over the country. The good news is that the risk is completely preventable. Radon can be detected with a simple and inexpensive test. If elevated levels are detected, there are cost-effective steps that can be taken to reduce concentrations to acceptable levels.

According to the Kendall County Health Department, radon levels vary around the country, but no home is free from risk. Radon can be a problem in homes of all types including new homes, homes with basements, and homes without basements. Studies by the Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA) and others show that radon occurs in every county in Illinois. In fact, the IEMA found nearly half of homes tested in Kendall County had an indoor radon level that exceeded the acceptable levels set by the EPA.

### **The only way to know if your level is too high is to test your home.**

Radon testing is easy, inexpensive, and effective. You should test your home every two years or if you make any structural changes to your home. You should also retest any time you move. Winter is a good time to test your home for radon because you need 'closed house' conditions for an accurate test, and here in Illinois our windows and doors are usually kept shut this time of year to keep the cold out. Test kits are available for purchase from most hardware stores. You can also request a free test kit by going to [www.iema.illinois.gov](http://www.iema.illinois.gov).

For more information on radon gas, testing, or for assistance in locating a qualified radon service professional, please contact the Environmental Health Unit at the Kendall County Health Department by calling (630) 553-9100. You can also visit our website at [www.kendallhealth.org](http://www.kendallhealth.org) and go to Environmental Health's Indoor Air tab.

