



PRESS RELEASE

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RADON IS PERSISTENT HEALTH RISK IN MINNESOTA

Crow Wing County Land Services Department offers free radon testing kits to area residents.

Every hour, one person in the US dies from radon-related lung cancer. It is the largest environmental cancer risk and leading cause of lung cancer among non-smokers. Fortunately, the risk is largely preventable.

Crow Wing County and the Minnesota Department of Health recommend that all homes be tested for radon. A home should be tested every 2-5 years and the results saved. It is important to perform a radon test after buying a new heating system or adding central air conditioning. Radon is an odorless, colorless and tasteless radioactive gas that occurs naturally in Minnesota soils and can enter homes through cracks and openings in basement or foundation floors and walls.

Radon test kits are available to be picked up in the Land Services Building at the customer service counter located at 322 Laurel St. Ste 15, Brainerd, MN between the hours of 8 am and 5 pm. There is a limit of one radon kit per household.

The Minnesota Department of Health estimates that one in three existing Minnesota homes have radon levels that pose a large health risk over many years of exposure. Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer in the United States. In Minnesota, 2 in 5 homes have radon levels that pose a significant health risk.

Radon exposure is largely preventable. Test your home to see if you have elevated radon levels. Testing is easy, inexpensive and takes 3-5 days. In homes with levels over 4.0 pCi/L, homeowners should consider verification testing and possibly installing a mitigation system, which will remove radon from your home.

For more information on radon testing and mitigation visit www.health.state.mn.us/radon or call the Minnesota Department of Health Indoor Air Unit at 651-201-4601 or 1-800-798-9050. Anyone interested in mitigating their home for radon should consult the Minnesota Department of Health's list of certified radon mitigation contractors at <http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/indoorair/radon/mitigation.html>.

The Land Services Department is committed to providing excellent customer service while helping landowners make wise choices that protect Crow Wing County's extraordinary natural resources. Citizens are encouraged to contact the Land Services Office at (218) 824-1010 or landservices@crowwing.us to discuss land use activities. Crow Wing County information and resources can be found at www.crowwing.us.

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Our Vision: Being Minnesota's favorite place.

Our Mission: Serve well. Deliver value. Drive results.

Our Values: Be responsible. Treat people right. Build a better future.