



Jackson County Department of Public Health

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2024-03
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 5, 2024

ARE YOU AT RISK FOR RADON?

1 in 15 Homes in the U.S. Have High Radon Levels--Help Protect Our Community this January

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has designated January as National Radon Action Month. This January, the Jackson County Department of Public Health is raising awareness about the risks of radon in our community and teaching others how to test their homes.

An estimated 1 in 15 homes in the U.S. have high radon levels and high radon levels can be a risk anywhere. Living in a home with high radon levels can be dangerous for your health. Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer and it is estimated to cause over 20,000 deaths each year in the U.S. Because of the ways that radon and tobacco smoke damage the lungs, high radon levels are especially dangerous for people who smoke. Their risk of lung cancer is 10 times higher than non-smokers.

Radon, a gas that is naturally present in rocks and soil in North Carolina, builds up in homes over time and can't be seen, tasted, or smelled, so it's easy for radon problems to go unnoticed. The only way to know if you have a radon problem is to test your home. The Surgeon General recommends that all homes get tested for radon. Home radon tests are simple and inexpensive and can help save lives. Homeowners can test their homes with a simple kit and if their home has high radon levels, they can fix it. Radon reduction repairs can be done with the help of a licensed radon mitigation contractor.

The NC Radon Program provides testing recommendations and suggested actions for all 100 counties in NC. According to the program website, it is suggested that Jackson County residents act by testing indoor air and private well water for radon. Certain areas of Jackson County are considered high or moderate risk for private well-water to have elevated levels of radionuclides.

Don't wait to take action to protect yourself and loved ones from radon.

To learn more about the North Carolina Radon Program and recommendations for Jackson County, visit <https://www.ncdhhs.gov/divisions/health-service-regulation/north-carolina-radon-program> and click "Find your county recommendation."



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For more information about how to test your home or where to find a test kit, call the National Radon Hotline at 1-800-SOS-RADON (1-800-767-7236).

To learn more about radon, visit: <http://www.cdc.gov/radon>

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