



Kane County Health Department Recognizes Radon Action Month

The average radon level in nearly every Kane County zip code is above the recommended action level. Do you know your home's radon level? Testing your own home is the only way to know your radon number. Become aware of your home's radon number during Radon Action Month.

Learn about radon at the Kane County Healthy Places Coalition's presentation on Wednesday, January 22 at 2 p.m. at the University of Illinois Extension Center, 535 S. Randall Rd. in St. Charles. Call 630-264-7653 for questions or to reserve a seat. Walk-ins are welcome.

Radon is found throughout the United States and can vary widely from one home to another. Homes with high levels have been found in all states. Most radon exposure occurs in the home, where people spend the most time. Because radon has no taste, smell, or color, a home must be tested to find out how much radon is in the air.

There is no safe level for radon, but the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Surgeon General recommended action level for fixing homes is at or above 4pCi/L. The average radon level in nearly every Kane County zip code is above the action level.

Radon is a colorless, odorless, radioactive gas that occurs naturally from the breakdown of uranium. Rocks and soil can contain uranium. Radon gas can enter through cracks in homes, buildings and schools, exposing people to the radiation. When people breathe in radon, it damages the lungs, which can cause lung cancer. Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer in the United States. The EPA estimates that 21,000 yearly lung cancer U.S. deaths are associated with radon.

(more)

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Home radon testing is simple and inexpensive. Eleven hardware stores in Kane County have partnered with the Kane County Healthy Places Coalition to provide their customers with educational radon displays and test kits for sale this month:

Ace Hardware, 2144 W. Galena Boulevard, Aurora

Ace Hardware, 994 N. Lake Street, Aurora

Ace Hardware, 1901 W. Wilson Street, Batavia

Ace Hardware, 617 W. State Street, Geneva

Ace Hardware, 160 E. Galena, Sugar Grove

Ziegler Ace Hardware, 150 S Kennedy Drive, Carpentersville

Ziegler Ace Hardware, 1158 Lillian Street, Elgin

Ziegler Ace Hardware, 301 Randall Road, South Elgin

Blain's Farm & Fleet, 629 S. Randall Road, Elgin

Home Depot, 1250 N. Orchard Road, Aurora

Lowe's, 955 S. Randall Road, St. Charles

For more information, see <http://kanehealth.com/Pages/Radon.aspx>

The Kane County Health Department was formed in 1985 by resolution of the Kane County Board to promote, protect and advocate for health and wellness in the community. The main offices are in Aurora, Illinois, with a satellite office in Elgin, Illinois. The Department is organized into the Division of Health Promotion, the Division of Disease Prevention and the Division of Community Health Resources. The vision of KCHD is to make Kane County residents the healthiest in Illinois by 2030.

For more information, visit KaneHealth.com or call 630-208-3801.

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Contact: Susan Stack 630-444-3098

KaneHealth.com

TEST.

Testing is the only way to know if you are at risk. Radon gas levels can be lowered by up to 99% by installing a radon mitigation system.



NO ONE IS IMMUNE TO RADON



ALL HOMES SHOULD BE TESTED

NEARLY HALF OF TESTED KANE COUNTY HOMES HAVE HIGH LEVELS OF RADON



LOW	MODERATE	HIGHEST
1-2 pCi/L	3-4 pCi/L	4+ pCi/L

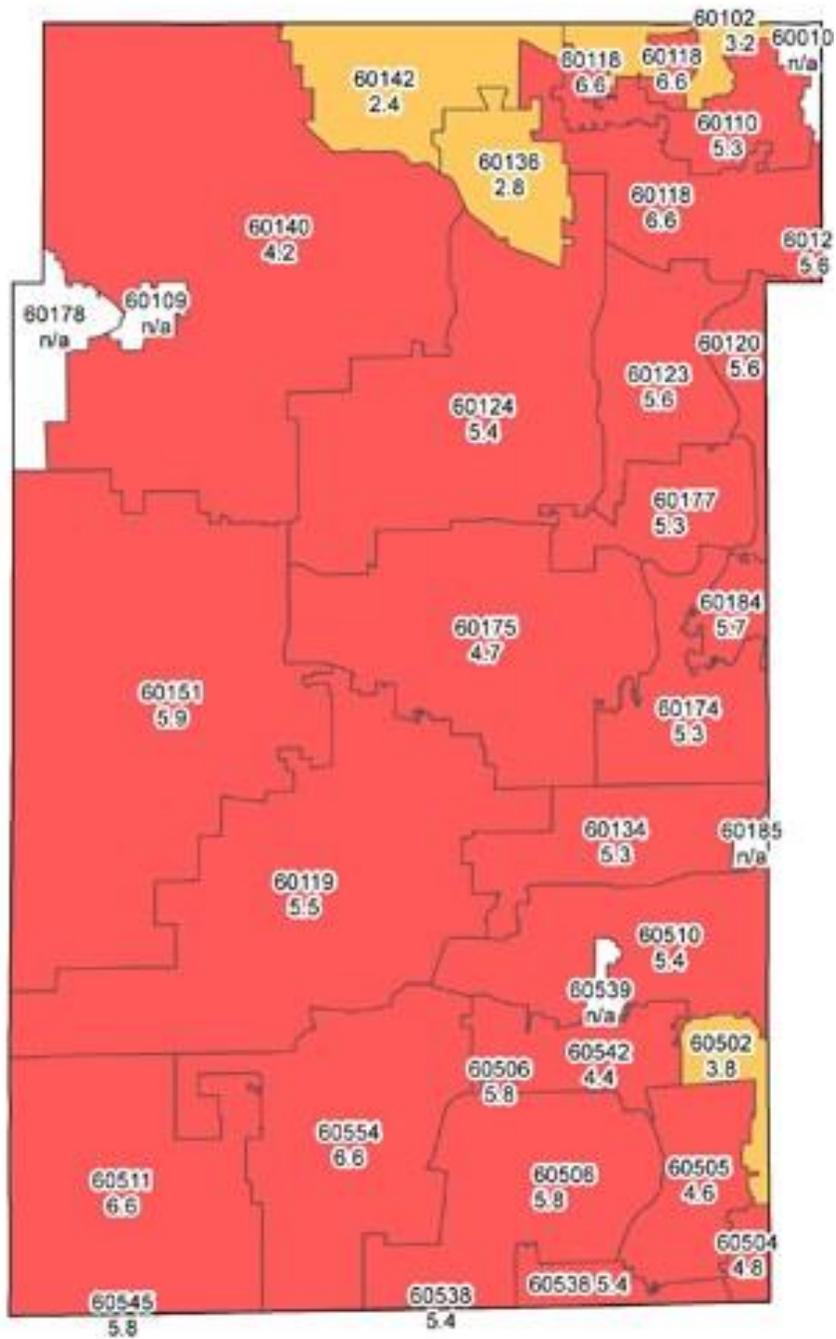


LUNG CANCER

Radon is the leading cause of lung cancer in non smokers and causing about 21,000 U.S. cases each year.

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Kane County Radon Levels by Zip Code



Average Measurement



Source: Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA)
IEMA recommends a level of less than 4 pCi/L.