

NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

Contact: Denise Ringenberg, Health Educator – 308-345-4223

January is Radon Action Month

McCook – January is Radon Action Month and Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department (SWNPHD) is showcasing the talented artists who participated in our local radon poster contest. “Every work day, one or more winning posters will be posted on our Facebook page at Facebook.com/swnphd,” explains Denise Ringenberg, Certified Radon Measurement Specialist. “We will feature our top 60 posters out of the 255 entered in the contest from students in our eight-county district.”



1st place - James Neel
5th grade-Central Elementary

Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer in the United States and the leading cause of lung cancer in nonsmokers. SWNPHD is working with the U.S. Environmental Agency (EPA) on a nationwide campaign to educate Americans about the dangers of radon exposure.

“Radon is high in our health district and the state of Nebraska with one out of every two homes tested has a high radon level (above 4.0 pCi/L),” shares Ringenberg. “SWNPHD encourages residents to have their homes tested as part of Radon Action Month. Radon short-term test kits are now available for \$10 at our office.”

The EPA recommends homeowners to test their homes every few years, even if a radon reduction system is in place. Radon is a colorless, odorless and tasteless gas that enters homes and buildings through the breakdown of uranium in the soil and cannot be detected unless it is tested.

Radon-resistant new construction is a requirement for building in the city of McCook. For more information review our web site at www.swhealth.ne.gov or the Nebraska radon program website at http://dhhs.ne.gov/publichealth/Pages/radon_index.aspx.

For more information on radon, testing, and mitigation contact Denise Ringenberg at educate@swhealth.ne.gov or call the McCook office at 308-345-4223. The office is located at 404 West 10th Street, one block north of Arby's. SWNPHD serves Chase, Dundy, Hayes, Hitchcock, Frontier, Furnas, Perkins and Red Willow counties. You can also follow us on Facebook.com/swnphd and Twitter@swpublichealth.

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