

## NEWS RELEASE

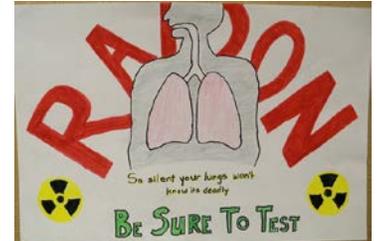
January 1, 2014

For Immediate Release

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

### January is Radon Action Month

McCook – Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department is working with the U.S. Environmental Agency (EPA) on a nationwide campaign to educate Americans about the dangers of radon exposure. SWNPHD urges area residents to take action by testing their homes for radon during January.



“Radon was not in my vocabulary before I started working at Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department,” explains Denise Ringenberg, Certified Radon Measurement Specialist. “Through radon education, hands-on testing, and the support of local and state radon experts, I am determined to increase radon testing in southwest Nebraska,” states Ringenberg.

Educating the public has been a focus of SWNPHD through the radon poster contest, which is open to youth ages 9-14. The top 30 posters from our eight-county district are currently on display at McCook Abstract & Title Company located at 318 Norris Avenue. “We encourage residents to view these creative posters that share information about radon, radon testing and radon mitigation”, states Ringenberg.

Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer in the United States and the leading cause of lung cancer in nonsmokers. It 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. In Nebraska, one out of every two homes tested has a high radon level (above 4.0 pCi/L).

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](http://www.swhealth.ne.gov) or the Nebraska radon program website at [http://dhhs.ne.gov/publichealth/Pages/radon\\_index.aspx](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](mailto:educate@swhealth.ne.gov) or call the McCook office at 308-345-4223. The office is located at 404 West 10<sup>th</sup> Street, one block north of Arby's. SWNPHD is also on Facebook and Twitter. The health department serves Chase, Dundy, Hayes, Hitchcock, Frontier, Furnas, Perkins and Red Willow counties.

###