

NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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

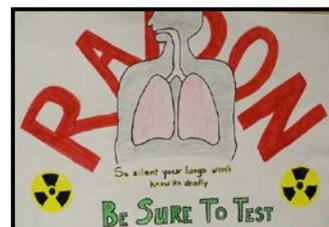
Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department Announces Local Radon Contest

McCook – Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department (SWNPHD) announces their sixth annual local Radon Poster Contest.

“Youth ages nine to fourteen, that live within the Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department district are eligible to participate,” explains Denise Ringenberg, Health Educator. These counties include: Chase, Dundy, Frontier, Furnas, Hayes, Hitchcock, Perkins and Red Willow. Students can enter through their school or an organization. Three top winning posters are selected and forwarded on to the Nebraska state competition.

“Prizes are awarded to encourage youth participation in the 2014 SWNPHD local radon poster contest. This year’s prizes are gift cards valued at \$125, \$100 and \$75,” states Ringenberg. Every participant will receive recognition.

Megan Hodgson and Analise Hernandez, students at Central Elementary School in McCook won 1st and 2nd place in the Nebraska contest. Megan’s poster was sent to Nationals and featured in the National Radon Poster Contest calendar. “We were so excited for Megan and Analise!” shared Ringenberg. “We hope to see our 2014 local winners do well at the Nebraska and National level. We have a strong tradition with the success of JoAnn Neel’s poster winning the 2012 State contest and 3rd place in the nation.” Over 260 posters were entered in the 2013 SWNPHD local contest, which is one of the largest in the nation.



The goal of the contest is to raise awareness about the dangers of radon. As the second leading cause of lung cancer in the United States, radon is not well known. It is a colorless, odorless and tasteless gas that enters homes and buildings through 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).

Posters deadline is October 3, 2014. Artwork submission forms and poster contest criteria may be found at our website: www.swhealth.ne.gov/environmental ; you can email educate@swhealth.ne.gov or call Denise Ringenberg at 308-345-4223. SWNPHD is located at 404 West 10th Street, McCook – one block north of Arby’s. Past poster winners can be found on our web site www.swhealth.ne.gov. You can also follow us on Facebook & Twitter.

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