

John Boyle
Commissioner

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Department of
Natural Resources

Anchorage, Alaska

STATE OF ALASKA

PRESS RELEASE

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Free Radon Tests Still Available for Radon Action Month

(Fairbanks, AK) –The Alaska Radon Program, a cooperative project between the DNR Division of Geological & Geophysical Surveys (DGGS) and University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF) Cooperative Extension Service, is offering free radon test kits to Alaskans to test their homes for the colorless, odorless, cancer-causing gas in honor of National Radon Action Month in January.

“Radon is a radioactive gas that originates from certain types of bedrock found commonly throughout Alaska and the United States,” said Jennifer Athey, a geologist with DGGS. “Radon enters buildings through cracks and gaps in the foundation, where it tends to collect and concentrate indoors, especially when buildings are sealed against cold winter temperatures. Radon is only detectable through specific air testing, and we recommend Alaskans test all homes that have contact with the ground.”

Radon gas is the leading cause of lung cancer in the United States among non-smokers, according to the U.S. Surgeon General.

To request a free radon testing kit, fill out the online questionnaire at <https://forms.gle/HRZ5wsGgjHnQiAEYA>. While supplies last, test kits may be picked up in person in Anchorage and Fairbanks or mailed to you. For more information about radon testing or home repairs, visit the DGGS “Radon in Alaska” webpage at <https://dggs.alaska.gov/hazards/radon.html>.

Pick-up locations and times through February 3, 2023:

UAF Cooperative Extension Office
Anchorage Outreach Center
219 E International Airport Rd., Suite 100
Anchorage, AK 99518-1213
Phone: (907)786-6300
Office Hours: Monday – Thursday, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Alaska Division of Geological & Geophysical Surveys
3354 College Road
Fairbanks, AK 99709-3707
Phone: (907)451-5010
Pick-up hours: Monday – Thursday, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

The Anchorage Outreach Center will also be hosting a free virtual class that will discuss the impact of radon in Alaska and what you need to know about this silent, invisible home invader. Two sessions are available. Registration is required.

January 18 from 12-12:30 p.m.: <https://bit.ly/Radon23>

Facebook Event: <https://fb.me/e/2Xe8qj1Qr>

January 24 from 6-6:30 p.m.: <https://bit.ly/Radon23pm>

Facebook Event: <https://fb.me/e/27rnziYEx>

As part of its radon awareness program, the Alaska Radon Program organized the second annual Alaska Radon Poster Contest for Alaskan youth aged nine to 14 years old to help educate Alaskans about the risks of radon. "Children competed to produce the most informative, original, and eye-catching poster as a fun and educational way to raise awareness about radon throughout the state," said Athey. Submissions could be hand-drawn or digital and needed to convey radon-related information such as origins, health risks, testing, or home mitigation in a visual format.

First place in the contest went to Luciana Liu from O'Malley Elementary School in Anchorage, with second place going to Lucy Roush of Randy Smith Elementary School in Fairbanks. The students received prizes that included gift certificates to Michaels arts and crafts store. Luciana Liu's winning poster has been entered in the National Radon Poster Contest to be judged this month.

Sponsors of the Alaska Radon Poster Contest included the DGGs, the UAF Cooperative Extension, the American Lung Association in Alaska, and the National Extension Healthy Homes Partnership. To see this year's winning entries, please visit <https://dggg.alaska.gov/outreach/radon-poster.html>. To see entries and results from the National Radon Poster Contest in January 2023, visit <http://www.radonleaders.org/>.

The Alaska Radon Program is funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's State Indoor Radon Grant to Alaska's Department of Environmental Conservation, Division of Air Quality. The grant is implemented through a partnership of DGGs and UAF's Cooperative Extension Service.

Alaska Radon Hotline: 1-800-478-8324

The Department of Natural Resources' mission is to develop, conserve, and maximize the use of Alaska's natural resources consistent with the public interest.

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