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Department of
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STATE OF ALASKA

PRESS RELEASE

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Young Alaska students invited to enter radon poster contest

(Fairbanks, AK) – How do you inform Alaskans of the dangers of a naturally occurring but dangerous gas that they can't see, smell, taste, or hear? The Division of Geological & Geophysical Surveys (DGGS) is inviting young Alaskans to compete in designing the best poster to grab Alaskans' attention and inform them of the risks of radon.

"This poster contest will help raise awareness of the harmful effects of elevated levels of indoor radon gas, and promote testing and mitigation efforts," said Jennifer Athey, a DGGS geologist. "Participating in this contest will be a fun and educational way for students aged nine to 14 years old to learn about radon and how to reduce the risk of exposure for themselves and their families."

Radon is a radioactive element that occurs naturally in the ground as gas, and can easily enter homes and buildings through cracks in their foundation. Although it is not detectable without specific tests, radon at concentrated levels is the second leading cause of lung cancer in the United States, according to the U.S. Surgeon General.

The "Alaska Radon Poster Contest" is sponsored by DGGS, along with the University of Alaska Fairbanks Cooperative Extension, the American Lung Association in Alaska, and the National Extension Healthy Homes Partnership. It is supported by a grant from the Environmental Protection Agency to Alaska's Department of Environmental Conservation's Division of Air Quality.

The contest is part of a national effort. The top three Alaska posters will receive prizes, and the first-place poster will be entered in the National Radon Poster Contest. Entries must be submitted by mail to DGGS, and postmarked no later than November 15.

More information about the contest, as well as entry forms, are available at <https://dgggs.alaska.gov/outreach/radon-poster.html>.

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