

# NEWS RELEASE

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For immediate release

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## January is National Radon Action Month

“One in every two homes in Nebraska has an elevated radon level and yours could be one of them,” said Tabi Prochazka, Environmental Health Coordinator for Panhandle Public Health District. Fortunately, there are simple solutions to lower elevated levels of radon in homes.

January is National Radon Action Month, and PPHD will be kicking off a radon test kit contest in area schools and will be holding educational events to draw attention to radon as a serious public health issue and, more importantly, to motivate Panhandle residents to take action to protect themselves and their families from the negative health risks posed by radon by testing their homes.

Radon is a naturally occurring, invisible, odorless gas that is harmless when dispersed in outdoor air, but when trapped in buildings, can be harmful at elevated levels and is the second leading cause of lung cancer in smokers, and the leading cause of lung cancer in non smokers,” Prochazka added.

In efforts to raise awareness Mark Versch, environmental health analyst from the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services will be in the Panhandle on January 23, 5:30pm at WNCC Room 116 in Sidney, NE and January 24, 5:30pm at the Harms Center Room B 132 in Scottsbluff, NE. He will be presenting *Radon, Its health effects, How It's measured and How Contractors Can Lower the Level in Your Home* to inform residents how to protect their family from the negative health risks posed by radon and answer any questions regarding radon and radon mitigation.

“Houses next to each other can have very different radon levels. Elevated radon levels are found in new and old houses, well-sealed and drafty houses, houses with or without basements and houses with every kind of furnace. The only way to know if your home has dangerous levels of radon is to test it.” Free radon test kits are available to panhandle residents by emailing [tprochazka@pphd.org](mailto:tprochazka@pphd.org) calling PPHD at 308-487-3600 ext 107 or toll free at 866-701-7173 ext 107.

For additional information about radon visit [www.pphd.org/radon.html](http://www.pphd.org/radon.html). The purpose of the Panhandle Public Health District is to educate the region it serves about the prevention of epidemics, spread of contagious diseases, injury, illness and disability. The district is charged with promoting and encouraging healthy behaviors. They promote the quality and accessibility of health services and protection against environmental hazards. Through education, protection and promotion of these issues, the Panhandle Public Health District believes the quality of life of the residents they serve can be greatly improved.