



ONE-DAY LOCAL DISTRIBUTION OF FREE RADON TEST KITS

HICKORY, NC – North Carolina’s Radon Program coordinator, Philip Gibson, will be at Catawba County Public Health on January 23 from 10:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. to distribute free radon test kits and information to county residents.

Radon is a natural gas that forms when uranium, which naturally occurs in geological formations throughout North Carolina, decays. People living or working in buildings built on top of these geological formations can be exposed to radiation by breathing in the radon gas emitted by the formations.

“Radon-induced lung cancer results in more than 20,000 deaths in the U.S. each year,” said Gibson. “It’s important for people to know if they are at risk so they can take appropriate steps to protect themselves and their families.”

Radon is measured in picocuries per liter (pCi/L). The Environmental Protection Agency advises individuals to fix their homes if a test reveals 4 pCi/L or higher. Catawba County has been identified as an area with predicted average indoor radon screening levels between 2 and 4 pCi/L, which is why North Carolina’s Radon Program coordinator is offering free testing kits to residents.

North Carolina’s Radon Program website, www.ncradon.org, offers a list of certified radon mitigation providers, the ability for families with newborn babies to order free radon test kits, and additional information.

“We are pleased to partner with North Carolina’s Radon Program on this initiative, and we encourage residents to pick up a free kit. It’s a simple way to learn if you are at risk of radon exposure, which is an important step toward ensuring a healthy home environment,” said Doug Urland, health director, Catawba County Public Health.

For more information about radon please contact Mr. Gibson at (828) 712-0972 or via email at Phillip.Gibson@dhhs.nc.gov.

Located off Fairgrove Church Road behind Catawba Valley Medical Center in Hickory, N.C., Catawba County Public Health provides health and education services to eligible men, women, and children in the community. For more information, please call (828) 695-5800 or visit www.catawbacountync.gov/phealth.

“Leading the Way to a Healthier Community”