

BETter Living ...

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Silently It Affects Your Body

Did you know Radon Gas is the second leading cause of lung cancer and the leading cause of lung cancer among non-smokers? Have you tested your house for Radon? These are questions that you should be aware of as this is Radon Action Month. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Kansas Radon Program would like you to take action this month against radon gas.

According to the Kansas Radon Program, Radon is a gas that comes from the natural radioactive decay of radium and uranium found in the soil beneath the house. The levels of radon vary throughout the country and state. Wabaunsee County has high levels of Radon content compared to some counties in Kansas. To view a map of Wabaunsee County's Radon Levels, visit www.wabaunsee.ksu.edu and click on the Home and Family tab.

Radon comes into your house through openings and cracks in your basement or lowest part of your house, where there is direct contact with soil. The EPA states that a radon level of 4 picocuries per liter (pCi/L) or less is acceptable for a household. Anything higher than 4 pCi/L needs to be mitigated. Mitigation is a process where professionals come and put in a system that will lower the levels of radon in the soil below a house's foundation.

Testing for radon is very simple and inexpensive. A test is run for 3-7 days and then the test is sent in for results. If you receive the results back with a radon level of less than 4 pCi/L, then no action needs to be taken. A test may be run again to confirm the results. The Wabaunsee County Health Department has a limited supply of free test kits or they can be purchased from the Wabaunsee County Extension Office. For more information, please contact the Extension Office (785)765-3821.