



Dickinson-Iron District Health Department

Dickinson County

818 Pyle Drive, Kingsford, MI 49802
Ph: (906) 774-1868 Fax: (906) 774-9910
BRANCH OFFICE

www.didhd.org

Iron County

601 Washington Avenue, Iron River, MI 49935
Ph: (906) 265-9913 Fax: (906) 265-2950
MAIN OFFICE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact Information:

Kelly Rumpf, 779-7234



Dickinson-Iron District Health Department Kicks off National Radon Month

Kingsford and Iron River, Michigan, January 3, 2011 – The Dickinson-Iron District Health Department is working with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in a nationwide campaign to educate Americans about the dangers of radon exposure and to encourage them to take action to protect their homes and families. In our community, the health department is encouraging homeowners to test their homes for radon during National Radon Action Month in January.

Radon is a naturally occurring, invisible, odorless, tasteless gas that is dispersed in outdoor air, but which can reach harmful levels when trapped in buildings. Scientists have long been concerned about the health risk of radon, but never before has there been such overwhelming proof that exposure to elevated levels of radon causes lung cancer in humans.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency estimates that radon is responsible for more than 20,000 lung cancer deaths per year. Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer in the U.S. after smoking and the leading cause of lung cancer among non-smokers. “However,” says Daren Deyaert, Dickinson-Iron District Health Department Environmental Health Director, “because you can’t see or smell radon, people tend to downplay the health effects and ignore the possibility that there might be a silent killer in their homes.”

Testing homes for elevated levels of radon is simple and inexpensive. Radon test kits can be purchased at the Dickinson-Iron District Health Department. During the month of January, the radon test kit will cost \$4.50.

The Dickinson-Iron District Health Department urges all Dickinson and Iron County residents to take action during this year’s National Radon Action Month by testing their homes for radon. Radon poses a serious threat to our community’s health but there is a straightforward solution. For more information on radon, call the health department at (906) 779-7239 or (906) 265-9913 or visit our website at www.didhd.org, or visit EPA’s National Radon Action Month website at www.epa.gov/radon/nram.

###