

Butler County Department of Environmental Services
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For Immediate Release

BUTLER COUNTY OFFERS FREE RADON TESTING KITS TO PUBLIC

Butler County received 200 free radon testing kits from the National Association of Counties (NACo) to distribute during the month of January, which is National Radon Action Month. Butler County is distributing these kits to increase awareness about the harmful effects of radon and to motivate residents to take action toward protecting their and their families' health.

According to NACo, radon is the leading cause of lung cancer among non-smokers and the second leading cause of lung cancer death in the U.S. Radon is responsible for about 21,000 lung cancer deaths annually; about 2,900 of these are people who have never smoked according to the USEPA. Radon is a naturally occurring radioactive gas produced by the breakdown of uranium in soil, rock, and water. This tasteless, odorless gas enters a building from its foundation and travels upward. Radon can enter the foundation through cracks or holes in concrete floors, walls, construction joints, sump pumps or loose-fitting pipes.

“Using a radon testing kit is the first action residents can take for protection against radon’s harmful effects,” said County Commissioner Gregory V. Jolivette.

Nationally, over 35 counties applied to receive the free kits, but only 10, including Butler County, were selected. Counties were selected because of their comprehensive approach to raising radon awareness and distributing the kits.

Butler County Commissioner Charles R. Furmon stated, “Butler County is pleased to receive the 200 free radon testing kits and looks forward to promoting this public health initiative.”

Butler County Department of Environmental Services will receive 200 free kits from NACo and purchase 200 additional kits. Throughout January, any Butler County resident can pick up a free kit at one of the participating agencies while supplies last. Participating agencies

are: BCDES, the Department of Health, Department of Job and Family Services, Department of Development and Neighborhood Housing Services of Hamilton, Inc.

“BCDES is dedicated to protecting public health and the environment through programs in water quality, litter prevention, air quality and solid waste management,” said BCDES Director Susan E. Vance. “Forming a partnership with other county service providers to raise radon awareness and protect public health allows our department to advance its mission and show that BCDES is ‘More Than Water.’”

“Neighborhood Housing Services is excited to be a part of this initiative,” said NHS Executive Director Lorie Batdorf. “Providing a means for our customers to test homes for radon will help to further our mission of providing safe, decent, affordable housing to Butler County residents.”

County Commissioner Michael A. Fox said, “The Butler County Commissioners strongly support the efforts of the participating agencies to increase radon awareness and its health affects among county residents during National Radon Action Month.”

“Providing these FREE kits to protect the health of our clients is a valuable service the department is proud to provide during this National Radon Action Month,” said Butler County Job and Family Services Director Bruce Jewett.

“The County Commissioners’ effort to increase radon awareness is greatly needed and appreciated,” said Jeff Agnew, Butler County Health Department Chief Environmentalist.

Once residents have tested their homes for radon, the testing kits will be sent for analysis to Air Check, Inc. located in Fletcher, North Carolina. The analysis will be provided free of charge.

A Radon Fact Sheet is available from BCDES, 130 High Street in Hamilton, or at www.butlercountyohio.org/des. The Butler County Department of Health is the local radon expert and can provide additional information. Contact the Health Department at (513) 863-1770.

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