



## Crawford County Health & Human Services Department

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***For immediate release***

### TEST YOUR HOME FOR RADON

***The best time to test for radon is November through February. If you have never tested your home for radon or have not tested recently, the Crawford County Health Department will have free radon test kits available to Crawford County residents at the Gays Mills Village Office board room on Thursday, February 15<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 am to 12:00 pm and 4:30 pm to 5:30 pm. Test kits can also be picked up at the Health Department anytime, 225 N. Beaumont Rd, Prairie du Chien. Call the Health Department with any questions (608) 326-0229.***

Radon exposure is the second leading cause of lung cancer overall and leading cause of lung cancer for non-smokers. Homeowners, property owners and child-care centers are being encouraged to test for radon.

Radon, an odorless, radioactive gas naturally present in the ground is found across Wisconsin and enters buildings through their foundations. Approximately one in 10 homes in our state have elevated radon levels. ***Over 60% of tests performed in Crawford County came back high for radon last year.***

Over 21,000 deaths can be attributed to radon exposure each year in the United States. Approximately 962 of these deaths are in Wisconsin. High radon levels are especially dangerous for people who smoke; their risk of lung cancer is 10 times higher than non-smokers.

Fortunately, this cause of lung cancer is largely preventable, and the first step is to test your house, apartment, or business location for radon. The cost of mitigation can be a barrier for some families and businesses; Wisconsin residents can visit [lowradon.org](http://lowradon.org) to find their Radon Information Centers (RIC) in Wisconsin or speak with local public health department radon

experts by calling 888 LOW-RADON to discuss available options. Reduced-cost test kits are also available through RICs.

Any house or building can be at risk for high radon levels, including apartments and commercial buildings. Landlords have a responsibility to provide safe living and working conditions to their tenants and should work with a certified radon testing and mitigation contractor to get started on addressing the issue for their tenants. DHS maintains a list of certified radon professionals that can provide radon measurement and mitigation and encourages homeowners and property owners to prioritize using a certified contractor.

More information can be found at [lowradon.org](http://lowradon.org).