



TOWN OF NEW MILFORD

Office of the Health Department

PRESS RELEASE

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NEW MILFORD HEALTH DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES RADON TESTING AND AWARENESS PROGRAM: Free test kits available.

The New Milford Health Department (NMHD) is conducting a radon testing and awareness program in cooperation with the Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH). The purpose is to encourage residents to test their homes for radon gas and to take corrective action when the radon level is found to be elevated.

Radon gas is the leading cause of lung cancer in non-smokers and it is estimated to be responsible for 21,000 deaths each year in the United States. Radon is a naturally occurring, radioactive gas formed from the natural decay of uranium and is found in rock, soil and water. Radon in outdoor air poses a relatively low risk but it can enter homes through the soil and become a health hazard inside of buildings.

Radon gas is odorless and invisible so people are often unaware this silent killer is inside their homes. That is why testing for radon and reducing elevated levels is so important.

The DPH Radon Program recommends that all Connecticut homes be tested for radon. Testing is recommended in the winter months when radon levels tend to build up indoors. Testing homes for radon is simple and inexpensive. New Milford residents may obtain a free radon test kit by calling the NMHD. A limited number of kits are available free of charge during the month of January while supplies last. The NMHD will also be taking into consideration the location of homes in deciding upon the distribution of kits. The goal is to have all geographic areas of the Town of New Milford represented.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency recommends that homes with radon levels at or above 4.0 pCi/L be fixed. And consideration should be given to fixing homes with radon levels between 2 pCi/L and 4 pCi/L. This will reduce the potential lung cancer risk for those residing in these homes.

Those interested in obtaining a free radon test kit should call the NMHD at (860) 355-6035. Also more information is available at the DPH website: www.ct.gov/dph/radon.

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