



The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has named January National Radon Action Month. Why might radon have an entire month dedicated to it? This is because radon poses a high risk of harm to human health. It is the second leading cause of lung cancer deaths after tobacco. Radon is a naturally occurring, radioactive gas that is released from the breakdown of uranium. It seeps into buildings from cracks in the foundation and can also seep into well water. It is colorless, odorless, and tasteless which makes it almost impossible to detect without testing. The EPA has set the action level for radon at 4 picocuries per liter (pCi/L). On average, radon causes about 21,000 deaths each year. Due to the severity of the effects of radon, the Farmington Valley Health District has taken the initiative to increase awareness about radon, how to test for it, and solutions to mitigate high levels.

To have a larger public impact, we have partnered up with the public libraries in Farmington, Avon, Simsbury, Canton, Granby, and East Granby. They have been given a poster board, educational handouts, and a supply of radon test kits to provide the public so that they can adequately test their homes for radon.

We will follow up with test kit recipients to provide helpful reminders to ensure the tests are conducted while it is winter, a time when tests will be most accurate.