WASHINGTON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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For Immediate Release

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JANUARY IS NATIONAL RADON ACTION MONTH

During the month of January, Washington County residents can pick up a free radon test kit (one per household) at the Washington County Health Department, 333 E Washington St., Suite 1100, West Bend. The office is open daily between 8:00 AM and 4:30 PM Monday through Friday. The free kits are available only if they are picked up at the office. If you wish to have a kit mailed to you, send the health department a check for $10 and a kit will be mailed to your home. The only additional cost to obtaining a radon result for your home is the price of 4 first-class postage stamps required to mail the kit to the lab for analysis. Analysis and reporting of results is done at no additional cost to the consumer.

Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer, causing an estimated 20,000 lung cancer deaths a year in the United States. Cigarette smoking is the number one cause of lung cancer, causing an estimated 160,000 lung cancer deaths a year in the U.S. Secondhand smoke causes an estimated 3,400 lung cancer deaths annually among adult nonsmokers in the U.S. Most people are surprised to find out that radon causes more lung cancer than secondhand smoke. If a person smokes or is exposed to secondhand smoke and lives with a high radon level in their home, the cancer chances are even higher. No matter what the cause, lung cancer from these environmental exposures can start to show up as early as age 40 (sometimes earlier). At any age, lung cancer is a difficult diagnosis. Taking action now to prevent exposure to these environmental hazards will save lives. Margaret Anderson, Supervisor of the Environmental Health Section for the Washington County Health Department states that "The main message for National Radon Action Month is that everyone should test their residence for radon and have a radon system installed by a certified radon mitigator if radon levels are high."

A list of Certified Radon Mitigators can be found at www. lowradon.org/. See the Washington County Health Department website, www.co.washington.wi.us/chn, if you need further information. Environmental Health personnel can be reached at 262-365-5878 if you have additional questions about radon.

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