

Maine Department of Health and Human Services

Mary C. Mayhew, Commissioner

www.maine.gov/dhhs

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NEWS RELEASE

Discounted Training Offered To Support Radon Testing

January is National Radon Action Month

AUGUSTA - Radon, a naturally-occurring radioactive gas, is the number one cause of lung cancer among non-smokers according to the Surgeon General and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). In an effort to spread the word about radon, its effects and where it is found, January has been designated as National Radon Action Month.

The Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention (Maine CDC) has partnered with Spruce Environmental Technologies to provide low-cost professional radon training courses to interested Maine residents. Registration for these classes continues through the end of the month.

Classes will be held February 8-10 at 100 Waterman Drive in South Portland and are funded in part by grants received from the EPA. A two-day class in residential radon measurement at a cost of \$99 (regularly \$299) and a one-day class in radon in water (\$79, regularly \$185), provide the minimum training needed to register to conduct radon testing in Maine

“Nearly all of Maine is in EPA’s Zone 1, a designation given to counties where homes and other buildings have the highest potential for radon levels that must be reduced,” said Dr. Sheila Pinette, Director of the Maine CDC. “In the winter, when homes are tightly sealed against the cold, indoor radon levels can be higher than at other times of the year. Regardless of the season, we urge that all homes and wells be tested for radon, as it can be found both in the air and in water.”

Radon can be found at high levels in many homes and is often found in areas with a lot of granite. Pinette said that home inspectors, contractors and real estate professionals can benefit from learning more about radon testing and how to reduce radon levels. .

For more information, or for a list of trained and licensed radon professionals, visit the Maine Radon Homepage at www.maineradiationcontrol.org

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