

## **GUIDE TO RADON**

- What is Radon? Radon is a naturally occurring radioactive gas which is produced from the breakdown of uranium in soil, rock, and water. You cannot see, smell, or taste radon.
- Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer in the United States today. Only smoking causes more deaths due to lung cancer.
- How does Radon enter your home? Typically, Radon moves up through the ground to the air above and into your home through cracks and other holes in the foundation. Nearly 1 out of every 15 homes in the United States is estimated to have elevated levels of Radon.

### ***Separating Fact from Fiction:***

Fact or Fiction? Radon testing is difficult, time consuming and expensive?

Answer: Fiction; Radon testing is very simple. It only takes a small amount of time.

Fact or Fiction? Homes with Radon problems cannot be fixed?

Answer: Fiction; there are simple solutions to radon problems in homes. Radon levels can readily be lowered for about \$800 to \$2,500 with an average cost of \$1,200. Contact the state radon office for help identifying a qualified mitigation contractor.

Fact or Fiction? Radon only affects certain types of homes.

Answer: Fiction; Radon can be a problem in all types of homes: old homes, new homes, drafty homes, insulated homes, homes with basements, homes without basements. Local geology, construction materials, and how the home was built are a few of the factors that can affect Radon levels in the home.