Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department (SWNPHD) invites area residents to attend radon presentations at numerous senior centers during Radon Action Month.

SWNPHD is working with the U.S. Environmental Agency (EPA) on a nationwide campaign to educate Americans about the dangers of radon exposure. SWNPHD urges area residents to take action by testing their homes for radon during January.

“Radon was not in my vocabulary before I started working at Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department,” explains Denise Ringenberg, Certified Radon Measurement Specialist. “Through radon education, hands-on testing, and the support of local and state radon experts, I am determined to increase radon testing in southwest Nebraska,” states Ringenberg.

Discount coupons for radon tests will be distributed at the presentations and be available at the SWNPHD office located at 404 West 10th Street, one block north of Arby’s. Free radon presentations are scheduled at the following area facilities:

Tuesday, Jan. 22, 11:30 MT, Perkins County Senior Center (Grant)

Wednesday, Jan. 29, Noon MT, Imperial Community Center

Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer in the United States and the leading cause of lung cancer in nonsmokers. It is a colorless, odorless and tasteless gas that enters homes and buildings through the soil and cannot be detected unless it is tested.

In Nebraska, one out of every two homes tested has a high radon level (above 4.0 pCi/L).

For more information on radon, testing, mitigation and radon-resistant new construction, contact Myra Stoney or Denise Ringenberg at educate@swhealth.ne.gov, review our web site at www.swhealth.ne.gov or call the McCook office at 308-345-4223.

The health department serves Chase, Dundy, Hayes, Hitchcock, Frontier, Furnas, Perkins and Red Willow counties.