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Contact: Erik Thorson, Communications Director, 763-324-4612, or e-mail:
Erik.Thorson@co.anoka.mn.us

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Keep Your Home Healthy; January is National Radon Month

Radon occurs naturally in Minnesota soils and is an odorless, colorless and tasteless radioactive gas. But it is also the leading environmental cause of cancer deaths in the United States and the leading cause of lung cancer among non-smokers. More than 21,000 lung cancer deaths are attributed to radon each year in the U.S.

Fortunately, the risk is largely preventable. Anoka County encourages homeowners to test homes and fix radon problems. About 2 in 5 Minnesota homes have dangerous levels of radon gas. The only way for residents to know if their home has radon is to test. To get a more accurate picture of radon levels, visit apps.health.state.mn.us/mndata/radon — this is an interactive map tool from the Minnesota Department of Health.

Testing is easy, inexpensive and only takes 3-5 days. The best time to test is now during the heating season, but testing can be done year-round. Short-term test kits can be picked up in the Anoka County Administration Office, 2100 3rd Ave., Suite 700, Anoka, and an order form can be found online at www.anokacounty.us/radon — additional information can be obtained by calling 763-324-4650 weekdays between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

Tests should be done in the lowest level of the home that is frequently occupied. If your home's level is at or above 4 pCi/L*, you should consider verification testing and having a radon mitigation system installed. Anyone interested in mitigating his or her home for radon should visit

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Government Center ▲ 2100 3rd Avenue, Suite 700 ▲ Anoka, MN 55303-5024 ▲ www.anokacounty.us
Office: 763-324-4700 ▲ Fax: 763-324-5490

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<http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/indoorair/radon/mitigation.html> to view the state's list of certified radon mitigation contractors.

Minnesota law requires disclosure and information be provided to buyers about radon during Minnesota home sales. The law requires sellers to inform buyers whether their home has been tested for radon and if so, what the levels are and whether the home has been mitigated for radon.

Visit www.anokacounty.us/radon or www.health.state.mn.us/radon for more information.

** pCi/L = picocuries per liter of air, the most popular method of reporting radon levels. A curie is an international measurement unit of radioactivity. A picocurie is one-trillionth of a curie.*