

## Land Services Department

Mark B. Liedl.....Land Services Director

### Environmental Services

Christopher Pence..... Land Services Supervisor

Douglas R. Morris.....Solid Waste Coordinator

Paul Herkenhoff, P. L.S.....Survey & Planning Coordinator

### Property Valuation and Classification

Gary Griffin.....Land Services Supervisor

### Public Land Management

Kirk Titus.....Land Services Supervisor

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES  
LAND SERVICES BUILDING  
322 LAUREL STREET, SUITE 14  
BRainerd, MN 56401

TELEPHONE (218) 824-1125

FAX (218) 824-1126

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONTACT: Chris Pence

218-824-1125

chris.pence@crowwing.us

## RADON IS PERSISTENT HEALTH RISK IN MINNESOTA

Crow Wing County Land Services Department will offer free radon testing kits to area residents

Every hour, one person in the US dies from radon-related lung cancer. It is the largest environmental cancer risk and the leading cause of lung cancer among non-smokers. Fortunately, the risk is largely preventable.

Crow Wing County and the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) recommend that all homes in Minnesota be tested for radon. It's the only way to know if your home has an elevated level of radon, which can cause lung cancer. Radon is an odorless, colorless and tasteless radioactive gas that occurs naturally in Minnesota soils and can enter homes through cracks and openings in basement or foundation floors and walls.

To obtain a test kit, contact the Land Services Department at 218-824-1125 or visit the office at 322 Laurel Street Suite 14 Brainerd MN 56401. Land Services Department may also be contacted by email at [environmental.services@crowwing.us](mailto:environmental.services@crowwing.us).

MDH estimates that one in three existing Minnesota homes have radon levels that pose a large health risk over many years of exposure. Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer in the United States and more than 21,000 deaths are attributed to radon each year.

Radon exposure, however, is largely preventable. First, test your home to see if you have elevated radon levels. Testing is easy, inexpensive and only takes 3-5 days. In homes with levels over 4.0 pCi/L, homeowners should consider verification testing and possibly installing a mitigation system, which will remove radon from your home. The final step is to encourage friends, family, and coworkers to test their own homes for radon.

For more information on radon testing and mitigation visit [www.health.state.mn.us/radon](http://www.health.state.mn.us/radon) or call the Minnesota Department of Health Indoor Air Unit at 651-201-4601 or 1-800-798-9050. Anyone interested in mitigating his or her home for radon should consult MDH's list of certified radon mitigation contractors at <http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/indoorair/radon/mitigation.html>.

The Land Services Department is committed to providing excellent customer service while helping landowners make wise choices that protect Crow Wing County's extraordinary natural resources. Citizens are encouraged to contact the Environmental Services Office at (218) 824-1125 or [environmental.services@crowwing.us](mailto:environmental.services@crowwing.us) to discuss land use and water protection activities. Crow Wing County information and resources can be found at [www.crowwing.us](http://www.crowwing.us)

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