



## MEDIA RELEASE

Contact: Angela Lee, Health Director  
(910) 989-3983  
Angela\_Lee@onslowcountync.gov

**Date: December 15, 2015**

**For Release: *Immediate***

### **Health Department Offering Free Radon Testing Kits**

*(Onslow County)* – The Onslow County Health Department is giving away testing kits in order to encourage residents to check the radon level in their homes.

According to Walter Doyle, Environmental Health Director, “As colder weather comes to North Carolina and families close windows to keep warm, it is an excellent time to make plans for radon testing in your home.” Radon is the odorless, colorless gas that is the second leading cause of lung cancer in the United States. Each year up to 22,000 people die from radon-induced lung cancer. Lowering the radon levels in a home decreases the risk of lung cancer.

The Onslow County Health Department is partnering with the North Carolina Radon program to provide free radon test kits in recognition of January’s National Radon Action Month and to protect the health of residents.

Radon test kits are being made available locally beginning January 4, 2016, Monday- Friday, 8:00am- 5:00pm, at the Environmental Health office, 234 NW Corridor Blvd, Jacksonville (Government Complex). Only one kit per house is needed to determine if your home has a high level. The kits will be distributed free of charge until they are gone.

The cost of lowering radon levels in a home averages about \$1,500. North Carolina homeowners who meet federal poverty criteria may be eligible for forgivable loans from local radon mitigation programs. A link to more information is available on the NC Radon Program web page.

The NC Radon Program website will also have a limited number of kits available. Once the supply of free kits has been exhausted, the NC Radon Program website will return to providing radon test kits at a reduced cost of \$6.00.

“We are encouraging residents to pick up a free radon testing kit. It is important to test your home for radon every year in order to keep you and your family safe,” added Doyle.

--More--

The North Carolina Radon Program website also contains a new mobile application. Meant to particularly help real estate brokers working in North Carolina, the mobile application will assist the user in determining how many tests have been conducted within a zip code as well as the highest radon level recorded in that zip code. The user of the APP will also be able to locate a certified professional to assist them in testing or fixing the radon issue in their home.

For more information visit [www.ncradon.org](http://www.ncradon.org) or call Onslow County Environmental Health at (910) 938-5851.

--End--