

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NEW MILFORD ANNOUNCES RADON ACTION [MONTH]

New Milford, NJ, December 16, 2019 – Mayor Michael Putrino announced today that January has been designated Radon Action Month by the Borough of New Milford, in cooperation with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Radon Program.

In announcing Radon Action Month Mayor Putrino said, “Radon is a serious health risk. It is the second leading cause of lung cancer -- and the leading cause of lung cancer among non-smokers. But because radon is invisible and odorless it is easy to ignore this potential hazard in our own homes.”

Radon is a radioactive gas that occurs naturally when uranium and radium break down in the soil and in rock formations. Radon gas moves up through the soil and finds its way into homes through cracks in the foundation and openings around pumps, pipes and drains.

“Less than one percent of homes in New Milford are predicted to be above the acceptable limits for radon,” Mayor Putrino said. “We would like to see as many homes tested as possible, to reduce the radon risk in the Borough of New Milford.”

During Radon Action Month, the Borough of New Milford will provide radon information at the Borough Clerk’s office.

Radon is measured in picoCuries per liter (pCi/L) of air. The average U.S. indoor level is 1.3 pCi/L. At 4 pCi/L, the risk of lung cancer from radon is greater than the risk from fire or other home accidents. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the DEP recommend that action be taken to reduce radon levels if the level in the home is greater than or equal to 4 pCi/L.

Fortunately, testing for radon is simple and inexpensive. Certified radon measurement businesses provide testing services or do-it-yourself test kits. Test kits can also be obtained from many hardware stores and home improvement stores. The Borough will be distributing free test kits during the month of January, while supplies last.

If the test indicates a radon problem, radon mitigation systems can be installed at a cost similar to that of other home repairs.

For more information on radon, contact the Borough Clerk’s office at (201) 967-5044 or the DEP Radon Program at (800) 648-0394 or visit www.njradon.org.