



To: Science, art, and health teachers, after school programs & youth groups – with students ages 9- 14

Opportunity for students - Radon Poster Contest

The American Lung Association in Illinois, the Ecology Action Center, the Illinois Emergency Management Agency Radon Program, Respiratory Health Association of Metropolitan Chicago, the Southern Illinois Radon Awareness Task Force, Inc. and University of Illinois Extension are sponsoring the Illinois Radon Poster Contest. Winning posters will compete at the **National Radon Poster Contest** sponsored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Kansas State University.

Radon is a colorless, odorless, tasteless, radioactive gas that can cause lung cancer. Fifty percent of Illinois counties are at high risk. By participating in this activity, students will learn about radon and how to reduce their risk of exposure.

For posters from Illinois to be considered at the national level, follow these guidelines:

1. **Posters are due on or before March 1, 2012** with the required **entry form** and the student's artwork [submission form found here](http://www.healthhouse.org/radon/il_poster.cfm). (http://www.healthhouse.org/radon/il_poster.cfm)
2. Students **MUST NOT** put their names on the front of the poster; or those posters will be *ineligible*.
3. **Radon information is available** from University of Illinois Extension's radon website: www.TakeActionOnRadon.illinois.edu. At that website, click on **Teacher Resources** to download learning activities for youth and a radon PowerPoint presentation. You'll also find a page of *Important Radon Facts* in the Teacher Resources section. Students may want to use some of these facts on the radon posters. Be careful not to have the posters be *too wordy*. Posters with fewer words tend to do better at the national level. **For more information** about radon, see www.radon.illinois.gov and: http://www.healthhouse.org/radon/il_poster.cfm .
4. The top three posters from Illinois will be selected by a state committee for cash awards. First place: \$200, 2nd place: \$150, 3rd place: \$100
5. Three state winning posters from Illinois will be sent to the national competition. National winners will receive cash prizes of \$1000 for 1st place, \$600 for 2nd place, \$400 for third place, and \$400 for a special online voting. The national winning poster will be reproduced and distributed throughout the U.S. in 2013.
6. Home school teachers and youth group leaders will be entered into a drawing to receive a \$50 check for science/poster supplies. Other school teachers will be in a drawing to win \$100 for science/poster supplies. **Turn in the entry form** on the next page to be eligible to win this prize. Send to IEMA. Attention Cindy Ladage, 1035 Outer Park Drive, Springfield, IL 62704.
7. Posters that have won national awards can be viewed at: <http://sosradon.org/poster-contest> .

If you have questions about the radon poster contest, please contact any of the following:

Debra Bartman, U. of I. Extension, retired 815-875-3183 dbartman@illinois.edu
Duane Friend, U. of I. Extension, 217-243-7424 friend@illinois.edu
Cindy Ladage, IEMA Radon Program 800-325-1245 cindy.ladage@illinois.gov
Eileen Lowery, RHAMC , Chicago, 312-628-0217 elowery@lungchicago.org
Calvin Murphy, Southern IL RATFI, 618-204-5545 calvin@alliedradon.com

Radon Poster Contest Entry Form

Please submit this form along with radon posters from your school or youth group.

This page is required for the teacher or club leader to be entered in a drawing for prizes of \$50 and \$100.

Entries are due on or before March 1, 2012

Mail to: IEMA
Attn: Cindy Ladage
1035 Outer Park Drive
Springfield, IL 62704

Name of school or youth group: _____

Name of contact person: _____

Title of contact person: _____

Address: _____

County: _____

Phone number: _____

Number of radon posters created in your class/youth group: _____

Contact Cindy at 1-800-325-1245 or by email: cindy.ladage@illinois.gov

CHECKLIST:

___ **Each poster has a completed artwork [submission form found here](#), and attached to back of the poster.** (http://www.healthhouse.org/radon/il_poster.cfm)

___ **The student's name and other personal identification is NOT on the front of the poster.**

___ Submit this page (Entry Form) with the poster contest entries.

___ For sources of correct radon information see these websites:

www.TakeActionOnRadon.illinois.edu www.radon.illinois.gov <http://www.healthhouse.org/radon/>

Reasons why posters may be disqualified:

- Student's name is on front of poster
- No Artwork Submission Form on back of poster
- No title on front of poster
- Copyrighted logo, brand name, character is used on poster. Local phone number or/or business is used on poster (**1-800 SOS-RADON** is OK to use)
- Incorrect information on poster.
- If you use the black and yellow radiation symbol, be sure it is the correct direction.



Poster Guidelines and Judging Criteria

For the radon poster topic, choose from the following five topics:

- What is radon?
- Where does radon come from?
- How does radon get into our homes
- Radon can cause lung cancer
- Test your home for radon

Judging criteria:

- Content accuracy
- Visual communication of topic
- Reproducibility
- Originality

Artwork Requirements:

- Be original
- Must not have student's name of the front
- Topic and title must be on the artwork [submission form found here](http://www.healthhouse.org/radon/il_poster.cfm)
(http://www.healthhouse.org/radon/il_poster.cfm)
- White paper - 12 x 18 and 8.5 x 11 sizes are preferred, but all submission sizes will be accepted (preferred size eases reproducibility)
- Can be created with crayon, markers, paint (watercolor, tempera, acrylic), collage, photographs or computer graphics
- Lettering and message should be large enough to reproduce well, with all pencil markings erased
- Copyrighted characters (such as Snoopy), product logos and trademarked or brand names cannot be used

Information about radon can be found on the IEMA website at www.radon.illinois.gov. A [power point presentation](#) has been compiled to aide you in teaching your students about radon. The intention of these slides is not to be used as one large presentation. Select the slides you would like to use to help students learn the risks of radon gas. This information can be helpful for students entering the radon poster contest or radon video contest. View the rest of the IEMA website for more information about radon.

