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**RESPIRATORY
HEALTH
ASSOCIATIONSM**
of Metropolitan Chicago

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**THE NUMBER TWO CAUSE OF LUNG CANCER MAY BE LURKING IN
YOUR BASEMENT**

Free radon tests offered during National Radon Month

Smoking is the number one cause of lung cancer, but did you know the number two cause could be entering your home through cracks in walls and floors in your basement? And that most Illinois homes are located in moderate or high risk areas?

To mark January as National Radon Month, Respiratory Health Association of Metropolitan Chicago has joined with the Illinois Emergency Management Agency to launch an educational campaign which informs Illinois residents about the dangers of radon and offers free radon test kits.

“As many as 22,000 annual lung cancer deaths are related to the inhalation of radon,” said Eileen Lowery, Coordinator of the Association’s Lung Cancer Initiative, ”and most people are unaware that their home can put them at risk for the disease.”

Radon is a colorless, odorless and tasteless gas that seeps up through the ground and diffuses into the air. Released from the normal decay of uranium in rocks and soil, radon exists at very low levels outdoors. In areas without adequate ventilation however, the radioactive gas can accumulate and substantially increase the risk of lung cancer.

The US Environmental Protection Agency has designated the top half of Illinois -- excluding the greater Chicago area -- as a Blue Zone, meaning residents are exposed to the highest risk for radon gas. The Chicago area and downstate Illinois is classified as a Yellow Zone with moderate potential for radon.

The only way to know if your home has an elevated radon level is through regular testing. To obtain a coupon for a free test kit or to learn more about radon, contact Respiratory Health Association at 312-628-0217 or click on www.lungchicago.org.

Known previously as American Lung Association of Metropolitan Chicago, RHAMC ended its affiliation with American Lung Association on July 1, 2007, and now operates as an independent lung health charity with a local board of directors.

Chicago’s Lung Health
Leader Since 1906

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