

Get 411 on Radon from New Extension Toll-Free Number

Alabama residents have a new way to get the latest information on radon. The Alabama Cooperative Extension System's radon education program is reaching out to consumers with a new toll-free number.

State radon program coordinator Pat Smith says the toll-free number will enhance people's access to radon information.

"Our new number is 1(855) ALRADON or 1(855)257-2366," says Smith. "People should call during regular business hours and will be able to talk with a knowledgeable professional."

She adds the only time callers will get an automated message is during non-business hours or if staff is assisting other clients.

Callers will be able to get information on a variety of radon topics including testing and how to contact certified mitigation specialists if their home has elevated radon levels.

Radon is a colorless, odorless and tasteless radioactive gas that occurs naturally in most rocks and soil. It is produced by the breakdown of uranium in soil, rock and water. Several Alabama counties have a high risk for radon pollution. Most are located in north and east central Alabama.

Highest Radon Risk Counties

Calhoun	Franklin	Limestone
Cleburne	Jackson	Madison
Clay	Jefferson	Morgan
Colbert	Lawrence	Shelby
Coosa	Lauderdale	Talladega

Radon is harmlessly dispersed in outdoor air, but when trapped in buildings can increase the risk of lung cancer, especially at elevated levels.

According to the Surgeon General, exposure to radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer in the United States. According to the EPA's 2003 Assessment of Risks from Radon in Homes, radon is estimated to cause about 21,000 lung cancer deaths per year.

Learn more about radon at its Extension website <http://www.aces.edu/fcs/hndh/radon/index.php>.