



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Buchanan County Public Health
Environmental Health

2018 RADON POSTER CONTESTS

BUCHANAN COUNTY & STATE OF IOWA

Opportunity for Students

Radon is a colorless, odorless, tasteless, radioactive gas produced by the natural decay of uranium in the soil. Exposure to elevated radon levels increases the risk of developing lung cancer. Radon is the leading cause of lung cancer among non-smokers and is the number one cause of death in homes, surpassing falls, poisoning, fires, choking, and drowning. As Buchanan County is considered at high risk, this contest provides an opportunity to educate Buchanan County youth and the general public. By participating in this activity, students will learn about radon and how to reduce their risk of exposure.

In order to spread the message about radon's health hazards, Buchanan County Environmental Health hosts the annual countywide Buchanan County Radon Poster Contest in conjunction with the annual statewide Iowa Radon Poster Contest hosted by the American Lung Association and the Iowa Department of Public Health, in partnership with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 7 and the Iowa Radon Coalition. We are once again calling on Iowa citizens ages 9-14 to create a radon poster that will increase public awareness of radon gas and encourage others to test their homes. A County committee will select from Buchanan County residents the top three winning posters for two age groups, 3rd – 5th grades and 6th – 9th grades, to receive awards; the first place winner will receive \$25, second place winner \$15, and third place winner \$10. All awards will be in the form of a gift card. Each winner as well as five other random submissions will receive radon short-term test kits. All Buchanan County Radon Poster Contest submissions, regardless of county residency, will be forwarded on to the Iowa Radon Poster Contest by Buchanan County Environmental Health. A State committee will select the top three winning posters from throughout the entire state of Iowa to receive awards; the first place winner will receive \$300, second place winner \$200, third place winner \$150, fourth place winner \$100, and fifth place \$50. Schools with the most submissions will receive \$200.

Full contest details and additional radon information is available on the county contest website at:

<http://tinyurl.com/BuchananRadon>. If you have questions about the radon poster contest, please contact Matt Even at (319) 334-2873 or maeven@co.buchanan.ia.us.

Contest Checklist:

- ✓ Each poster has a state entry form completed and attached to the back of each poster
- ✓ All information and spelling on each poster is correct
- ✓ Entries are received by February 16, 2018
- ✓ Entries are mailed to Buchanan County Environmental Health, 210 5th Ave NE, Suite I, Independence, IA 50644



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Poster Guidelines

ELIGIBILITY

Kids must meet the following eligibility requirements

- Be at least nine years old, but not older than fourteen
- Enrolled in a public, private, or home school or part of a sponsored club like scouts or 4-H

POSTER REQUIREMENTS

- Posters will be accepted January 1, 2018 – February 16, 2018
- White paper - 12" x 18" and 8.5" x 11" sizes are preferred, but all sizes will be accepted
- Artwork and ideas must be original
- Student's name or other identifying information must not be on the front of the poster
- Every poster must have a completed state Entry Form which lists the topic and title
- Can be created using crayons, markers, paint, collage, photographs, or computer graphics
- Lettering and message should be large enough to reproduce well
- All pencil markings must be erased
- Copyrighted characters, product logos, and trademarked or brand names cannot be used

TOPICS

One of the following set topics should be used as a theme for your poster

- 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

Posters will be judged on

- Accuracy of poster content
- Correct spelling
- Reproducibility of poster
- Originality of poster (does not resemble a past winner)
- Poster is aesthetically pleasing

RESOURCES

<http://tinyurl.com/BuchananRadon>

www.lung.org/radon

<http://idph.iowa.gov/radon>

www.sosradon.org

www.epa.gov/radon