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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Orange County Health Department Offering Free Radon Test Kits

Orange County, NC (January 6, 2016) – January is National Radon Action Month. The Orange County Health Department is doing its part to help people *Test, Fix, and Breathe* by partnering with the North Carolina Radon Program to provide free radon testing kits. The kits are available to county residents while supplies last. As it only takes one kit to determine the presence of radon, only one kit per household will be given.

The free kits are available at the Orange County Health Department's Environmental Health Office located at 131 West Margaret Lane, Suite 100 in Hillsborough. Free kits can also be ordered directly from the North Carolina Radon Program, <http://www.ncradon.org/Home.html>.

About Radon

Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer in the United States, and the risk is even higher for smokers. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has identified more than 20,000 deaths each year from radon exposure. Radon is an odorless, colorless gas which occurs naturally and can seep through cracks in buildings. High levels can lead to severe health problems. If unsafe levels of radon are identified, there are radon reduction systems that can reduce radon levels in a home by up to 99 percent. Information about radon mitigation and certified contractors is available at <http://www.ncradon.org/FIX.html>.

Radon Locally

In November 2015, the Orange County Board of Health passed a resolution declaring January as Radon Action Month in the county. The resolution encourages citizens and interested groups to promote awareness of the hazards of radon exposure, and encourages citizens to test and mitigate their homes for radon levels. Based on data collected by the Radiation Protection Section in the Division of Health Service Regulation, radon is present at elevated levels in about seven percent of homes in North Carolina.

For more information about radon, radon testing, or financial assistance with radon mitigation, visit the North Carolina Radon Program website, www.ncradon.org.

Call Orange County's Environmental Health division at (919) 245-2360 for more information about how to pick up your radon test kit locally.

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