

Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department (SWNPHD) is pleased to announce its second annual radon awareness poster contest for youth between ages nine and 14. The winners of the local contest will become eligible for the state contest and a chance to become the national winner with a trip to Washington DC. Local participants will be awarded first, second, and third place prizes.

“Last year we were surprised with the number of entries considering it was the first year for the poster contest. This year I’d like to see even more area youth become involved at a chance to be the Nebraska winner, and a shot for a trip to Washington DC,” said Shane Smith, environmental health coordinator for SWNPHD.

“Radon gas is the second leading cause of lung cancer only behind smoking, and is ahead of secondhand smoke for the number of cancer deaths caused by non smokers,” states Smith.

Radon is a naturally occurring gas from the earth’s soil. It is tasteless, odorless and colorless, and enters homes naturally where the biggest risk to exposure occurs.

The local contest will follow the guidelines set up for the national contest which is sponsored by Kansas State University and the United States EPA. Having a local contest with local winners is one way to encourage more youth to get involved in bringing about radon awareness to families. Poster contest information will be distributed to schools throughout the health district.

For more information, contact Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department at 308-345-4223, or visit their website www.swhealthdept.com.

More information is also available from the Environmental Protection Agency’s website at <http://www.epa.gov/radon>. The environmental staff at SWNPHD is always willing to answer questions concerning Radon and how to reduce the risk of exposure.

Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department serves Chase, Dundy, Frontier, Furnas, Hayes,

Hitchcock, Perkins and Red Willow counties.