

# the health advisor

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH



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Days: 30-41



Day 39



**FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (DOH) MISSION: TO PROMOTE, PROTECT, AND IMPROVE THE HEALTH OF ALL PEOPLE IN FLORIDA.**

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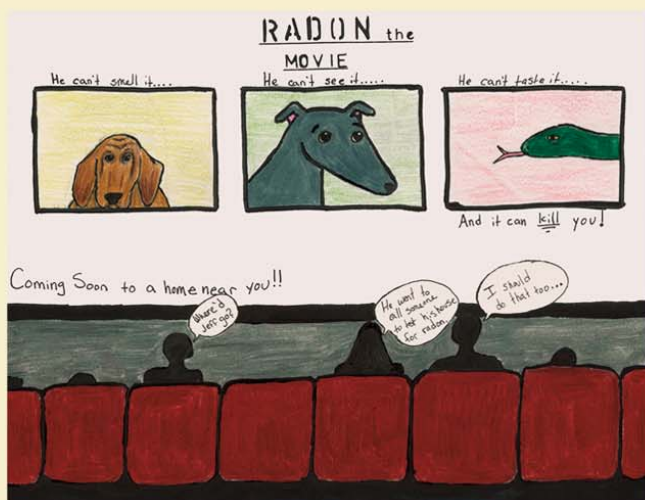
**Health care providers**, the goal of the *Health Advisor* is to present health information to your patients, clients, and community partners in a reader-friendly format. Article pages are designed for posting or handouts. If there is a topic that you would like the *Health Advisor* to cover, contact us.

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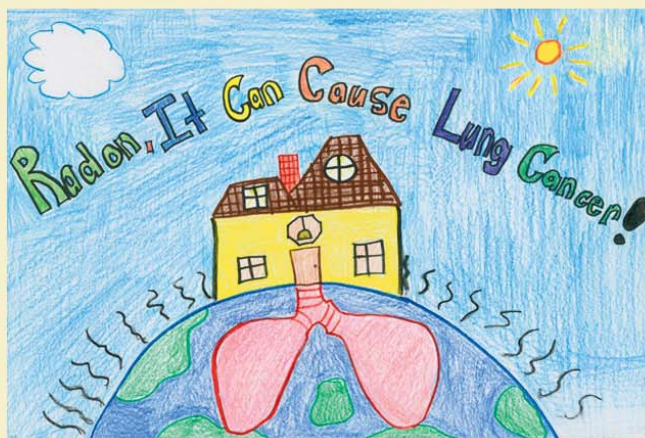
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# Florida Students Selected for National Radon Poster Contest

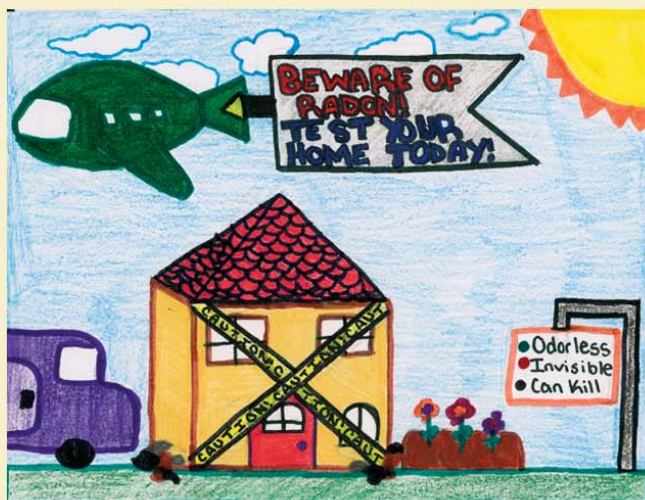
by Jorge Laguna, Florida Radon Program



FIRST PLACE: "Radon: The Movie," by Jennifer Wiltrout.



SECOND PLACE: "Radon, It Can Cause Lung Cancer," by Erin Dahlen.



THIRD PLACE: "Beware of Radon!" by Sara Mohess.

The National Radon Poster Contest, sponsored by the National Safety Council (NSC) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, is an annual event for students age 9–14. Poster contest goals include: increasing the number of homes tested for radon, educating people about reducing radon levels at home, and raising awareness about the harmful effects of elevated indoor radon levels.

The Florida Department of Health's (DOH) Radon Program's participants have won at the national level the last two years, and the popularity of the Florida contest continues to rise with 185 posters submitted this year. Two years ago, only 49 posters were submitted statewide. The posters winning at the state level and sent to the national contest are:

**FIRST PLACE:** "Radon: The Movie," by Jennifer Wiltrout. Jennifer, 12, attends Windy Hill Middle School in Clermont.

**SECOND PLACE:** "Radon, It Can Cause Lung Cancer," by Erin Dahlen. Erin, 11, attends Montford Middle School in Tallahassee.

**THIRD PLACE:** "Beware of Radon!" by Sara Mohess. Sara, 12, attends Windy Hill Middle School in Clermont.

View all of the 2010 entries at [www.doh.state.fl.us/environment/community/radon/rnPoster10](http://www.doh.state.fl.us/environment/community/radon/rnPoster10).

## More about radon

The U.S. Surgeon General recommends that your home be tested for radon. Radon, a naturally occurring, radioactive gas found in Florida and all over the U.S., is the number one cause of lung cancer in nonsmokers and the second leading cause of lung cancer after cigarette smoking. Radon is odorless, colorless, and tasteless. It causes approximately 21,000 lung cancer deaths annually.

In Florida, about one in five homes have elevated radon levels. High radon levels have been reported in single-story homes, schools, office buildings, and high-rise condominiums. The only way to know if you are exposed to high radon levels is to have your home tested using a simple, inexpensive test. If a problem is found, effective techniques can be used to reduce elevated radon levels.

For more information about radon, radon testing, and the radon poster contest, contact the Florida Radon Program toll free at 1.800.543.8279 or 1.850.245.4288. Visit our Web site: [www.radon.doh.state.fl.us](http://www.radon.doh.state.fl.us).