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**HEALTH & WELFARE**

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**NEWS RELEASE**

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**TV Show Will Blow Up Family's Home Because of Radon Dangers  
Construction Techniques can Fix Most Radon Problems**

Showing a home being blown up to eliminate radon gas makes for great television, but it may give a false impression that explosives are the only way to deal with the problem. The Idaho Indoor Environment Program wants families to know there is a better solution.

On Sunday, November 4th at 6:00 MST, the popular ABC television program "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition" will blow up a house in Cheyenne, Wyoming. The home is being destroyed to eliminate elevated radon gas levels that are thought to be causing respiratory illnesses to the family living there. The problem is blowing up the house may not get rid of the radon.

"Blowing up the home is not a solution," states Jim Faust, Manager of the Idaho Indoor Environment Program. "In fact, a new house built on the same site may have the same radon problem, since most radon is found in the ground underneath the house – not from the house itself."

Faust says it is important that people are informed of the dangers of radon, and helpful ways to correct the problem. "We want people to know that although a big explosion makes for good TV ratings, elevated levels of radon can be reduced in most homes," he says.

Radon is a naturally occurring radioactive gas that can be found in soil and certain types of rock. It is odorless, colorless, and tasteless. Exposure to radon can cause lung cancer and is responsible for an estimated 21,000 deaths in America each year.

**(more)**

In Idaho, high radon levels have been found in EVERY county, with more than HALF of the counties having average test results that are above EPA's action level of 4 pCi/L (picoCuries per Liter). This federal action level was established as a point where steps should be taken to reduce radon in homes or buildings. The average indoor radon level for homes in Idaho is 6.4 pCi/L.

But save the dynamite! “The good news is that radon is an environmental hazard that can be corrected through home construction techniques,” says Faust. “Almost every home can be fixed no matter what the radon levels are. It can be fixed by many do-it yourselfers or people can hire a radon mitigation contractor.”

The most common and reliable method of reducing radon in your home is drawing radon from below the house and venting through a pipe to the outside, preventing radon gas build-up in your home.

The U.S. Surgeon General and the EPA recommend all homes be tested for radon. If you would like to receive a free radon test or have questions about radon, please call the Idaho Indoor Environment Program at 1-800-445-8647, or the Idaho CareLine at 2-1-1. You can also learn more about radon at the following websites:

Environmental Protection Agency--[www.epa.gov/radon](http://www.epa.gov/radon)

Idaho Department of Health and Welfare—[www.healthandwelfare.dhw.idaho.gov](http://www.healthandwelfare.dhw.idaho.gov)

**(Editors: For more information, contact Jim Faust at 1-800-445-8647 or 334-5717.)**