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## **Washington, Illinois High School Student Wins First Place in National Radon Video Contest**

### ***Maddie Kogelis takes top honors in first-ever national video contest***

SPRINGFIELD – A video created by a student at Washington Community High School in Washington, Illinois won first place in the first-ever national radon video contest. Maddie Kogelis originally submitted the 60-second video to the state contest sponsored by the Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA) and the American Lung Association in Illinois (ALA-IL) in early 2017. After finishing first in the state contest, her video was entered into the national contest. Kogelis will receive a \$1,000 prize.

The announcement of winners in the national radon poster and video contests was made today by the American Lung Association and the Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors, which sponsored the national contests with support from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

“We are so proud of Maddie for taking top honors in the national video contest,” said IEMA Interim Director Jennifer Ricker. “Her video shows exceptional creativity as it promotes the important messages about radon hazards and the importance of testing your home for this radioactive gas that is known to cause lung cancer.”

Kogelis’ video can be viewed on the IEMA website at [www.illinois.gov/iema](http://www.illinois.gov/iema).

Radon is a colorless, odorless, tasteless gas that comes from the radioactive decay of naturally-occurring uranium in the soil. It can enter homes and buildings through small cracks in the foundation, sump pumps or soil in crawlspaces. Approximately 1,200 people in Illinois die each year from radon-related lung cancer.

Ricker said IEMA and the ALA-IL currently are seeking submissions for the 2018 state radon poster and video contests. In 2017, nearly 800 posters and 141 one-minute YouTube videos were submitted for consideration. Information about the contest is available at [www.illinois.gov/iema](http://www.illinois.gov/iema). The deadline for submissions is March 1.