

Nevadans encouraged to test their homes for radon

Free radon test kits available through

Feb. 28

Special to the Sun

RENO — Free radon test kits are available through Feb. 28 at University of Nevada Cooperative Extension offices and partner offices statewide.

Nevadans are encouraged to take advantage of this free offer to test their homes for this dangerous gas. The tests are extremely easy to conduct.

Radon is a radioactive, colorless, odorless and tasteless gas that comes from the ground. It accumulates in homes and can cause lung cancer. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency estimates 21,000 Americans die each year from radon-induced lung cancer, killing more people than second-hand smoke, drunk driving, falls in the home, drowning or house fires.

This type of lung cancer is preventable, and the only way to know if a home has elevated levels is to test it.

Cooperative Extension has been working to raise awareness of the dangers of radon in the home since 2007. They have distributed radon test kits since 2008. Since that time, more than 16,000 homes have been tested in Nevada, and results indicate that one in four found potentially hazardous radon levels.

Once detected, there are fairly easy, inexpensive ways to reduce the radon exposure to safe levels.

January is also National Radon Action Month, and to better help communities comprehend the dangers of radon, the Nevada Radon Education Program will offer presentations at various locations. Test kits will also be available at upcoming presentations.

In Humboldt County and Winnemucca, an informational presentation will be held on Jan. 14 at 6 p.m. at the cooperative extension office at 1085 Fairgrounds Road.

For more information, visit the Nevada Radon Education Program website at www.RadonNV.com, or call the Radon Hotline at 888-RADON10 (888-723-6610).