



December 18, 2009

Learn about radon health risk in Lyon

Submitted Story

January is National Radon Action Month and the University of Nevada Cooperative Extension's Radon Education Program is offering several radon presentation meetings in Lyon County, beginning Jan. 4 at the Lyon County Cooperative Extension office at 504 S. Main St., Yerington, at 5:30 p.m.

Two other meetings will be held on Jan. 20, one at 11:45 a.m. at the Lyon County Library, 20 Nevin Way, in Yerington, and another at 5:30 p.m. at the Smith Valley Library, 22 Day Lane, in Smith. Included in the presentation will be information about radon, associated health risks, and results of area testing.

Elevated radon levels have been found in 56 percent of the homes tested in Yerington, 40 percent in Wellington, 9.8 percent in Dayton, 18 percent in Fernley, and 8 percent in Silver Springs. The county has an overall radon risk potential of 30 percent.

Radon is a naturally occurring, invisible, odorless and tasteless gas that is dispersed in outdoor air but can reach harmful levels when trapped in buildings. The U.S. EPA estimates that radon causes more than 20,000 lung cancer deaths per year. Radon is the second-leading cause of lung cancer in the United States, and is the leading cause of lung cancer among nonsmokers.

"It is a serious health risk that is preventable and fixable," said UNCE Radon Education Program Director, Susan Howe. "People need to take radon more seriously and be aware of the health effects and the possibility that there might be a dangerous gas in their homes."

Howe urged area residents test their homes for radon, and free test kits can be obtained at the public meetings. Residents can also purchase radon test kits for \$5 at the Lyon County Cooperative Extension, 504 S. Main St., in Yerington.

For more information on radon, testing and mitigation, and building new homes with radon-resistant features, call the Nevada Radon Hot Line at 1-888-RADON10, visit UNCE's Radon Education Program Web site at www.unce.unr.edu/radon or visit EPA's National Radon Action Month Web site at www.epa.gov/radon/nram.

The meetings are sponsored by UNCE's Radon Education Program, which is working with the Nevada State Health Division and the EPA in a nationwide campaign to educate Americans about the dangers of radon exposure and to encourage them to take action to protect their homes and families.

If you anticipate needing any type of accommodation or have questions about the physical access provided, contact UNCE's Marcia Moffitt at 775-463-6541 in advance of your participation or visit.