



University of Nevada
Cooperative Extension



NEVADA RADON REPORT

NEVADA RADON EDUCATION PROGRAM
A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROGRAM THROUGH THE NEVADA STATE HEALTH
DIVISION AND THE U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

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Quarterly highlights:

- Kladder teaches radon training course
- Press around Lake Tahoe helps get the word out about radon
- Fallon hosts annual Home and Garden Show with radon on display

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Extension educators and support staff undergo training with radon expert

Education and support staff for the Nevada Radon Education Program (NREP) gathered at the University of Nevada campus on June 16 and 17 for radon training. Doug Kladder, director of the Center for Environmental Research and Technology (CERTI), who has been in the radon measurement and mitigation field since 1984, led the two-day training program for University of Nevada Cooperative Extension (UNCE) employees.

The training included the physics of radon, where radon



Doug Kladder talks about the basics of radon and radon testing to statewide educators and support staff.

comes from and the health risk it poses. Attendees also learned how to test for radon and some strategies for radon reduction.

Adrian Howe, state radon contact, Nevada State Health Division, was also on hand to explain the health division's role as NREP's contractor and offered insight as to the current and past radon program involvement in the state.

The second day of training included specific policy and procedures for Nevada's radon test kit distribution and future plans, with instruction by the new program director, Susan Roberts.

Attending the training were UNCE county educators Dehan Dominguez from Pyramid Lake and Pete Mangum from White Pine County; support staff including Ashley



Kladder explains how to use a short-term radon test kit.

Vollmar, Jane Hussein and Claudene Wharton from Washoe County, Marilyn Ming, Sandy Bean and Martha Barajas from Clark County, Teri Spraggins from Carson City, Julie Brandt from Incline Village and Lena Johnstone from Douglas County. Also in attendance were Megan Long, radon program coordinator, Susan Roberts, program director, Pam Munk, Pershing County safety coordinator, Evan Fulton, state water specialist, and Frank Flavin and Jill Ukeiley, area directors.

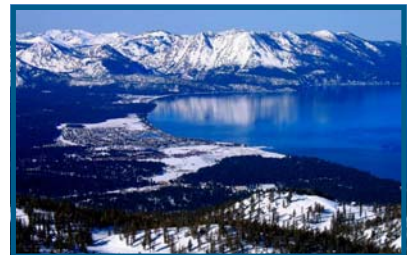
NREP provides RRNC information to Lake Tahoe area builders

Contractors from all around Lake Tahoe met April 25 at the Lake Tahoe Community College for the Ninth Annual Best Management Practices Workshop. Megan Long, radon education coordinator, set up a booth and handed out materials to attendees on Radon-Resistant New Construction (RRNC).

The EPA publication, *Building*

Radon Out, was given to builders in an area where radon is very prevalent and homeowners are finding high levels of radon in their homes.

Past surveys have indicated that approximately 69% of homes in the South Lake Tahoe area exceed the EPA Action Level.



All South Lake Tahoe homes should be tested and new homes built radon-ready.

Media provides extensive coverage at Zephyr Cove

Press coverage of the ongoing debate over radon levels and the need for mitigation at Zephyr Cove Elementary School has been extensive. The school is located in the heart of South Lake Tahoe, an area with large amounts of granite and elevated radon concentrations in a large percentage of homes in the area.

Local media have covered public meetings and school board meetings. This means locals have read a lot about radon gas and the dangers of high levels in schools, as well as in homes.

NREP hopes that with all of the press coverage, homeowners will

have a greater desire to learn more about radon and will test their homes for radon.

The school recently contacted the EPA Office of Radiation and Indoor Air Division for advice on the best mitigation strategies to use. At the



Zephyr Cove Elementary is in the heart of Douglas County, a high-risk county for radon gas.

request of Adrian Howe, the state radon contact, the Conference of Radiation Control Program Director's Building Technical Capacity Team is providing radon diagnostics and mitigation assistance in hopes of resolving the problem by the start of school in the fall.

Zephyr Cove Elementary is in Douglas County, which is one of the highest-risk areas for radon in Nevada according to the EPA map of radon zones. Past surveys have indicated that approximately 69 percent of homes in the Zephyr Cove area exceed the EPA Action Level.

"A home over the soil can act as a holding tank, allowing radon to accumulate to high levels."

Kristy Miller
EPA Office of Radiation and Indoor Air

Reno Channel 2 News airs radon story

Reno Channel 2 News ran a story entitled "Radon: The Silent Home Invader That Can Kill" in April. This is the second story that Channel 2 News has aired this year. The story highlighted the fact that radon is a health risk that you can't see, touch or feel, which is why it is so important to test.

Most of this information came from Kristy Miller, a spokeswoman for EPA's Office of Radiation and Indoor Air. More information in the news story included where radon comes from and how it gets into a home.

"A home over the soil can act as a holding tank, allowing radon to accumulate to high levels," Miller said. The news story also discussed different mitigation strategies, such as soil suction for homes having radon levels above the EPA Action Level of 4 pCi/l.

This broadcast was important for the Reno area, informing area residents of the potential for high radon in area homes. For more information and to read the full story, visit Reno Channel 2 News at www.ktnv.com.



Lander County radon partner distributes kits

Elisabeth Lani, with the Humboldt-Toiyable National Forest Ranger District, distributed 20 free short-term radon test kits in June for the Nevada Radon Education Program. The kits went to community members throughout the small town of Austin, Nev., located in Lander County. These are the first kits to go out in Lander County. Of the 20 kits given out, five have been used and one of these showed a high level of radon.

Long attends measurement training

Megan Long, radon education coordinator for the Nevada Radon Education Program (NREP), attended the Western Regional Radon Training Center's two-day radon measurement training course, May 19-20, in Colorado Springs, Col.



Megan Long

The training involved a 16-hour course to prepare radon measurement personnel to perform radon measurements, communicate radon behavior and risk to clientele, and respond to technical questions.

Now that Long has completed and passed the training, she will be regis-

tered with the National Environmental Health Association's National Radon Proficiency Program (NEHA-NRPP).

"I am thrilled that Megan has received this specialized training and is now more knowledgeable about radon and its behavior, and knows how to advise our clientele on testing their homes," said Susan Roberts, program director for NREP. "With measurement certification, we are better able to answer clientele questions and advise them on what they should do if they have elevated radon levels."

For more information on certified testers and mitigators in the area, visit the two radon proficiency program organizations at www.radongas.org or www.nrsb.org/index.html.

Nevada Radon Zone Test Result Summary			
Zone 1 counties	Total Tests	Tests > 4 pCi/l	% high radon
Carson City, Douglas, Eureka, Lander, Lincoln, Lyon, Mineral, Nye, Pershing, White	319	108	33.86%
Zone 2 counties	653	119	18.22%
Churchill, Elko, Esmeralda, Humboldt, Nye, Storey,			
Zone 3 counties	62	4	6.45%
Clark			

77 radon test kits distributed at Fallon Home & Garden Show

Anyone wishing to get advice on or inspiration for indoor or outdoor projects were welcome at the Seventh Annual Soroptimist Home and Garden Show held April 19-20 at the Fallon Convention Center. More than 2,000 attended.

UNCE had a booth with information about many different programs, including the Nevada Radon Education Program (NREP). Patricia Whitten, with Churchill County Cooperative Extension, organized volunteers to hand out radon information, and 77 radon test kits were distributed. Of these, 15 have been used, with none of the homes having



The Home and Garden Show was held in downtown Fallon at the Convention Center.

high radon levels.

For more information about NREP or any other UNCE program, call 1-888-RADON10.

NREP attends conference on Improving Public Health

The Nevada State Health Division (NSHD) hosted a conference on April 28 for public employees from all over Nevada. The Healthy Nevada Evaluation Team talked about ways to improve public health throughout the state and evaluate the social marketing aspects of these different programs.

Over 30 health educators attended the conference, including Megan Long, radon education coordinator, and Adrian Howe, Nevada state radon contact.

The conference was very interactive and included discussion on what has worked for programs and how to reach the public. Long talked about the Radon Education Program's goals of educating the public on the dangers of radon gas and listened to suggestions on ways to reach clientele with the radon-risk message.

Nevada Radon Short-Term Test Results*

From February 2007 to June 30, 2008

Nevada counties	Carson City		Churchill		Clark		Douglas		Elko		Esmeralda	
Total number of usable tests per county	74		43		62		143		30		0	
EPA Action Level	<4.0	≥4.0	<4.0	≥4.0	<4.0	≥4.0	<4.0	≥4.0	<4.0	≥4.0	<4.0	≥4.0
No. of short-term radon test results	51	23	38	5	58	4	94	49	19	11	0	0
% of homes tested that have high radon levels	31.08%		11.63%		6.45%		34.27%		36.67%			

Nevada counties	Eureka		Humboldt		Lander		Lincoln		Lyon		Mineral	
Total number of usable tests per county	1		6		5		8		44		6	
EPA Action Level	<4.0	≥4.0	<4.0	≥4.0	<4.0	≥4.0	<4.0	≥4.0	<4.0	≥4.0	<4.0	≥4.0
No. of short-term radon test results	0	1	4	2	4	1	5	3	36	8	3	3
% of homes tested that have high radon levels	100.00%		33.33%		20.00%		37.50%		18.18%		50.00%	

Nevada counties	Nye		Pershing		Storey		Washoe		White Pine		Grand	
Total number of usable tests per county	10		27		2		562		11		1,034	
EPA Action Level	<4.0	≥4.0	<4.0	≥4.0	<4.0	≥4.0	<4.0	≥4.0	<4.0	≥4.0	<4.0	≥4.0
No. of short-term radon test results	10	0	11	16	2	0	461	101	7	4	803	231
% of homes tested that have high radon levels	0.00%		59.26%		0.00%		17.97%		36.36%		22.34%	

*State data provided by the Nevada State Health Division and AccuStar Labs. Results based on independently tested homes, not scientific sampling. When known, post-mitigation results are not included and usable results are valid tests, one per home, using an average of multiple tests from the lowest level of the home tested.

Radon Program educational and promotional materials available



Scroll message pens



Click message pens



Radon Activity Books



Memo pads



Sponges

These are some of the items that have been ordered and will be distributed to Nevada Radon Program offices in the near future.

Radon Education Program statistics

UNCE Radon Program Numbers	Jul-Sep 07	Oct-Dec 07	Jan-Mar 08	Apr-Jun 08	Total to date
Radon phone and email inquiries	NA	104	1,920	112	2,136
Newspaper/magazine articles	1	34	42	23	100
Number of TV reports	NA	3	12	2	17
Number of radio PSAs	NA		5	1	6
Number of radon exhibits	NA	6	31	14	51
Direct contacts promoting radon testing and mitigation	NA	413	2,287	559	3,259
Radon publications distributed	NA	358	2,028	412	2,798
Test kits distributed	19	295	1,809	161	2,284
Homes tested	11	99	796	38	944
Homes mitigated		1	8		9
Homes tested in real estate transaction			2	1	3
Homes built with RRNC features			4	2	6
Number/list of mitigators		3			3

Additional FY08 Nevada Radon Education Program activities summary

- The UNCE radon test kit distribution and results database has been established.
- The Nevada Radon Website address was established (www.unce.unr.edu/radon) and the website content is currently in development.
- The Newborn test kit distribution program is under development.
- A Contractor's Planner has been ordered to be distributed to area builders for the 2009 calendar year.
- Two large radon displays, several trifold exhibit displays and smaller Plexiglas displays have been ordered for the program and will be distributed to Radon Program county offices in the near future, as well as brochures and other publications currently under development.



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