



University of Nevada  
Cooperative Extension

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## ALA holds first annual LUNG FORCE Walk

The Nevada Radon Education Program hosted a booth at the Northern Nevada American Lung Association's (ALA) LUNG FORCE Walk at the Reno Aces Ballpark on May 16.

The Northern Nevada Chapter of the American Lung Association held a one-mile walk inside the Reno Aces Ballpark to increase research, awareness, education and advocacy. Around 182 lung cancer survivors, friends, family and community members attended the event, raising an astounding amount of \$24,931.

"Our first LUNG FORCE Walk was a great success and we are so happy to have had the opportunity to bring together those surviving lung disease and those honoring loved ones taken too soon due to lung disease," Frankie Vigil, executive director of the American Lung Association in Nevada, said. "We hope everyone can join us next year on Saturday, May 14 for our LUNG FORCE



Northern Nevada American Lung Association's LUNG FORCE Walk drew 182 participants and raised \$24,931 towards lung lung cancer research, awareness, education and advocacy.

Walk."

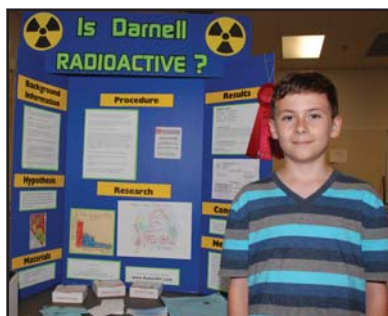
The Nevada Radon Education Program hosted a booth to pass out free radon test kits, and helped with LUNG FORCE Walk bags and activities for participants. About 54 people visited NREP's

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## Student wins 2nd place honors with radon project

Alex Fiore, a fifth grade student at Marshall C. Darnell Elementary School in Las Vegas, won second place for a science fair project where he tested for radon in four classrooms at his school.

From 135 science project entries, Fiore won second place. Of the four classrooms tested in the science experiment, all were below the Environmental Protection Agency's action level of 4 pCi/L. Even though EPA school testing protocol calls for testing every ground level occupied room that is neither a bathroom nor kitchen, Fiore wanted to use the project as a platform to raise awareness by distributing free kits and coupon brochures.



Alex Fiore, a 5th grader at Marshall C. Darnell Elementary School, won 2nd place honors with his radon science fair project.

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## County celebrates service

The Washoe County Commissioners proclaimed the week of April 19-25 as Volunteer Week, and recognized a crowd of county volunteers at its April 21 meeting. Included among the many volunteers recognized by the commissioners was the Nevada Radon Education Program's volunteer, Mindy Hsu.

Hsu has volunteered in many capacities for NREP since 2010.

Through her efforts over the years, she distributed at least 290 radon test kits for the program. She placed door tags within various high radon potential neighborhoods, distributed countless free test kit brochures, counted inventory, placed receipts on test kits, distributed test kits at the Washoe County Cooperative Extension office, prepared reminder post card mailers, and visited numerous service clubs, speaking

to at least 196 individuals regarding radon.

"Mindy volunteers for us, as well as with other community organizations, on her days off from working full-time at the Veterans Administration and Wal-Mart



The Washoe County Board of Commissioners honored community volunteers with a proclamation and recognition during the April 21 board meeting.

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# Volunteers

Continued from Page 1

pharmacies, and she is a busy mother!" said Susan Howe, program director. "We appreciate Mindy's efforts which also include thinking of new ways to outreach the community. We feel very blessed that she devotes her expertise, time and efforts to our program."



Mindy Hsu

## Cooperative Extension recognized

The Board also recognized University of Nevada Cooperative Extension by proclaiming May 2015 as University of Nevada Cooperative Extension month and encouraged residents of all ages to explore the many educational opportunities offered by the University of Nevada Cooperative Extension.



Accepting the Washoe County Board of Commissioner's proclamation for University of Nevada Cooperative Extension month were Jamie Roice-Gomes, Ed Smith, Susan Howe and Sarah Chvilicek.

May 8 marks Cooperative Extension's 101st anniversary of the signing of the Smith-Lever Act which established Cooperative Extension through land-grant universities in partnership with federal, state and local governments to "diffuse useful and practical knowledge," bringing research-based knowledge to people where they live and work.

Accepting the proclamation and representing Cooperative Extension were Sarah Chvilicek, 4-H Program, Ed Smith, Living With Fire Program, and Susan Howe and Jamie Roice-Gomes, Nevada Radon Education Program.

The May 2015 proclamation states, "Each year tens of thousands of youth and adults engage in practical University of Nevada Cooperative Extension learning opportunities designed to change lives through educational programs in agriculture; horticulture; natural resources; community and economic development; health and nutrition; and children, youth and families; and University faculty, local Extension educators and Cooperative Extension volunteers provide trusted education to help people, businesses and communities solve problems, develop skills and build a better future, living and working alongside

## Fiore

Continued from Page 1

a flyer that was distributed at the meeting and decided to attend. At the program, Alex was shocked to discover that public buildings, especially schools, were not mandated to be tested. It was there that the idea to test his school was born. The project evolved into his science fair project and he used it as a platform to spread the word.

"I first learned about radon at the local library," said Alex. "The initial presentation and subsequent information started my interest in radon, which caused me to do my science fair project on it."

"I hope that as people see my project they will develop an awareness of the dangers and health risks of radon, and also that they are prompted to test, and if needed, mitigate their home for radon."

NREP provided Alex with test kits, radon maps, maps and informational publications.

"Congratulations to Alex on his winning honors," said Susan Howe, program director. "And a big thank you for helping to spread the word about radon!"

Nevadans in all 17 counties."

## Women's Lung Health Week

During the same commissioners meeting, the Board proclaimed May 10-16 as Women's Lung Health Week recognizing LUNG FORCE, "a national movement led by the American Lung Association with the mission of making lung cancer history-uniting women to stand together with a collective strength and determination to lead the fight against lung cancer and for lung health."



The Board recognized May 10-16 as Women's Lung Health Week. Executive Director Frankie Vigil accepted the proclamation for the American Lung Association of Northern Nevada.

The Northern Nevada Lung Association hosted its first LUNG FORCE Walk on May 16 to raise awareness, advocacy and research dollars for weomen's lung disease, including lung cancer, asthma and COPD. (See article, ALA holds first annual LUNG FORCE Walk, Pg. 1.) The Board encouraged all county residents to learn more about the detection and treatment of lung cancer.

## Lung Force

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booth and 38 test kits were distributed.

"It was great to collaborate and aid the Northern Nevada American Lung Association to promote healthy lungs," said Susan Howe, program director. "The lung association helps to spread the word about radon and lung cancer among non-smokers and we help the ALA spread the word about lung cancer."



Susan Howe and Jamie Roice-Gomes, NREP, provided free radon test kits for the walk participants.



Frankie Vigil, ALA executive director, and Shannon Hykes, ALA intern, prepare to raise the LUNG FORCE Walk arch at the Aces Ballpark.



Frankie Vigil, ALA executive director, and Archie greeted LUNG FORCE Walk participants before the walk around the ballpark began.



A mitigation crew member adheres the polyethylene sheeting to the stem walls and floor joists in the crawl space.

## NREP shadows local mitigator

From Apr. 2 thru Apr. 6, Radon Education Coordinator, Jamie Roice-Gomes, observed a local radon mitigator, Norm Denny, and his crew perform a radon mitigation at a Verdi residence.

Armed with a face mask and oversized Tyvec suit, Roice-Gomes followed the crew into the crawl space to observe the mitigation process.

"It's nice to view this procedure in person," Roice-Gomes said. "Norm Denny and the crew with Pinnacle Construction were nice enough to allow me to tag-a-long and ask questions during the mitigation."

The process lasted about three days as it was a large crawl space. Prior to mitigation, the home had a level of 5 pCi/l and after mitigation, the home's radon levels were .5 pCi/l.



Jamie Roice-Gomes dressed in a Tyvek suit for the day's adventure.

## What happens during a crawl space mitigation?

The crew began the project by cleaning out the crawl space. They threw away rocks, old visqueen and any other obstructions that might prevent the new system from properly functioning.

Next the crew installed perforated piping over the dirt. This piping would later connect to a pipe system and a fan located in the attic of the home to expel the radon and soil gas out of the house, above the roof line.

The next process is the longest. The crew laid out the 6 mil polyethylene sheeting over the dirt and sealed the sheeting seams and edges to the floor joists and stem walls with sealant. The foreman drilled a hole from the basement into the garage to route the piping up through the attic. In the attic, a fan and the junction box to power the fan were installed.

They also installed a fire collar for the piping in the garage and a manometer on the pipe to measure the air pressure of the system to ensure a properly working system.



Kaleb Ennis lays out the polyethylene sheeting over the dirt in the crawl space.



A radon fan was installed in the attic, along with as an electrical outlet to power the fan.

## NREP visits Saint Mary's Pulmonary and Critical Care group

On June 10, Dr. Steve Mashour invited the Nevada Radon Education Program (NREP) to speak to the four doctors that make up the newly formed Saint Mary's Pulmonary and Critical Care group. Doctors Mashour, Bacon, Floreani and Skaria viewed the Iowa Cancer Consortium's video, "Breathing Easier." Following the video, Adrian Howe, radiation physicist, answered questions. NREP provided each of the doctors with a packet of radon publications, maps and information for reference.

Following the meeting, NREP was able to place a brochure

holder of free radon test kit brochures in their lobby area, as well as at Saint Mary's in Galena.

## UNR Family Medical Center residents learn about radon

The Nevada Radon Education Program was invited to speak at the University of Nevada, Reno, Family Medical Center's Apr. 22 didactic meeting by Helena Russell, MD, Family Medicine Chief.

Adrian Howe, radiation physicist, Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health, presented the "Breathing Easier" video produced by the Iowa Cancer Consortium, to 22 residents attending the day's didactics. A question and answer period followed the video. Susan Howe, program director, distributed 38 radon test kits and packets of educational radon information.



NREP was invited to speak to residents at the University of Nevada Family Medical Center during a didactics on Apr. 22. The Iowa Cancer Consortium video, "Breathing Easier" was shown to the group of 22 residents and faculty members.



Jamie Roice-Gome and Adrian Howe are pictured outside the office of the newly formed pulmonary center, Saint Mary's Pulmonary and Critical Care, located at 343 Elm St., in Reno. NREP presented a short radon message to the four doctors on June 10.

# JCPenney Distribution Center employees hear about radon

Jamie Roice-Gomes presented the radon message during a Brown Bag Lunch & Learn at JCPenney's Distribution Center in Stead on May 13. Susan Siebert, a Human Resources administrator, arranged the program.



Susan Siebert, JCPenney HR administrator, invited NREP to the Brown Bag Lunch & Learn program.



Jamie Roice-Gomes speaks to the JCPenney Distribution Center group at the Brown Bag Lunch & Learn program.

## NREP speaks to Kiwanis Club

Jamie Roice-Gomes, radon education coordinator, presented the radon program to 15 members of the Kiwanis Club of Reno at their monthly meeting, Apr. 1, at the Ramada Hotel and Casino.

Founded in 1922, the Reno Kiwanis Club, "embraces the theme of changing one child and one community at a time." Group members were very interested in the radon presentation and asked many interesting questions.

The Nevada Radon Education Program (NREP) received a thank you letter from a Kiwanis member thanking the program for the, "well prepared and well-presented presentation." The letter concluded that, "The University and County can be very proud of the program."

NREP can provide radon presentations to community groups upon request. "We appreciate the opportunity to present to new groups of Nevadans as our schedule permits," notes Susan Howe, program director, who also attended the luncheon meeting.



Jamie Roice-Gomes, education coordinator, presented the radon health risk message on Apr. 1, to the Kiwanis Club of Reno.

## Nevada Retired Public Employees learn about radon

Jamie Roice-Gomes gave an abbreviated presentation to the Nevada Retired Public Employees Carson City Chapter during their monthly meeting, April 7, at the Carson City Senior Center.

The Nevada Retired Public Employees are retired Nevada state employees who advocate for the Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS). Of the 22 attendees, 11 received radon test kits and seven or 64 percent were used.



Jamie Roice-Gomes speaks to the Nevada Retired Public Employees Carson City Chapter on Apr. 7.

## April to June test kit distribution

The data in the three charts on this page show that 321 short-term test kits were distributed at events, by mail order requests, and at Cooperative Extension and partner offices during the April through June quarter.

At least 130 test kits, 40.5 percent, of those distributed during the quarter, were used as of June 30, 2015.

Short-term test kits distributed from Special Projects, Partners and Cooperative Extension offices from April - June 2015			
Distribution point	No. kits distributed	No. tested	% tested
Douglas County Cooperative Extension	26	12	46.2%
- Nevada Tahoe Conservation District	3	3	100%
- Tahoe Regional Planning Agency	2	2	100%
Elko County Cooperative Extension	1	0	0%
Pershing County Cooperative Extension	1	1	100%
Washoe County Cooperative Extension	52	25	48.1%
- Incline Village Recreation Center	16	12	75.0%
- Pulmonary & Critical Care cpn	1	0	0%
- Washoe School District	9	0	0%
NV Comprehensive Cancer Control Program	1	1	100%
Mitigator Norm Denny	33	21	63.6%
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>53.1%</b>

Short-term test kits distributed at Programs and Events from April through June 2015				
Date	Program	No. kits distributed	No. tested	% tested
4/1/15	Reno Kiwanis Program	11	4	36.4%
4/7/15	Retired Public Employees of Nevada	11	7	63.6%
4/22/15	Family Medical Center Program	38	2	5.3%
5/13/15	JCP Lunch Program	12	1	8.3%
5/16/15	ALA Lung Force Walk	37	3	8.1%
6/10/15	Saint Mary's Pulmonary Doctors Group	4	0	0%
<b>Program Totals</b>		<b>113</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>15.0%</b>

Short-term test kits distributed by Mail with Coupons, Phone, or Online orders from April - June 2015			
Distribution point	No. kits distributed	No. tested	% tested
Mail order requests through Eventbrite	5	3	60.0%
Mail order requests	40	25	62.5%
Mail order requests by Misc. Coupons	5	3	60.0%
Mail order requests from Website coupons	13	5	38.5%
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>57.1%</b>

# Radon Education Program Numbers

UNCE Radon Program Numbers	prior to Sep 07	FY 08	FY 09	FY 10	FY 11	FY 12	FY 13	FY 14	Jul - Sep 14	Oct - Dec 14	Jan - Mar 15	Apr - Jun 15	Totals
Radon phone and email inquiries		2,136	2,688	1,911	2,209	1,946	3,148	1,893	83	280	844	142	17,280
Direct contacts promoting radon testing and mitigation		3,259	14,000	10,428	7,862	7,768	8,416	9,205	1,216	2,472	4,847	572	70,045
Newspaper/magazine articles	1	99	61	85	68	122	105	44	4	23	23		635
Radon publications/info distributed		2,798	67,071	59,378	58,545	99,057	100,905	126,754	19,672	31,038	49,800	22,127	637,145
Number of radon exhibits		51	106	186	148	183	77	59	2	16	30	5	863
Number of TV reports		17	9	57	37	6	4	6		17	4		157
Number of TV PSAs						592	310	508			563		1,973
Number of radio PSAs		6	6	26	6	195	3,755	5,926		2,063	4,372		16,355
Website pages of NV Radon information			45	113	253	113	100	90	12	46	39	18,239	19,050
Eventbrite page views								355	277	95	48	61	836
Website page hits			29,466	59,288	75,920	85,617	152,793	198,030	43,949	62,312	72,559	49,149	829,083
Test kits distributed	971	2,469	8,208	5,321	4,829	3,993	4,929	5,219	293	1,459	3,252	342	41,285
Homes tested-Short-Term	1,574	1,316	4,062	2,590	2,339	2,025	2,043	2,436	130	352	1,596	272	20,735
Homes tested-Long Term	41	26	56	30	30	26	29	26	5	3	3	4	279
School buildings tested	6	1	16	10		15	1	1		1	8	1	60
School buildings mitigated	1	1	2	7			4	1					16
Homes mitigated	4	20	75	92	128	132	112	112	11	22	63	36	807
Homes with repaired mitigation system or fan replacements				1	1	1	0	1					4
Large buildings tested		27		31		152	16	5			11	1	243
Large buildings mitigated			2			1	0	0					3
Homes tested in Real Estate transaction	1	27	68	84	168	259	102	366	28	68	84	61	1,316
Homes built with RRNC features		7	36	30	18	22	26	23		1	226	1	390
Number of certified Mitigators		3	2	-1			-2	1					3
Number of Builders using RRNC					5	3	1	1			2		12
No. of Realtors promoting Radon testing						26	7	3	28		14	10	88

## Nevada Radon Education Program's Impact Data as of 6-30-15

County	% Radon Potential of Usable ST Test Results*			% kits distributed/used**			% Homes tested*			% Mitigations			# Real Estate	# RRNC			
	# Valid ST tests*	# Homes < 4 pCi/l	# Homes ≥ 4 pCi/l	% Radon Potential	Average ST radon level pCi/l	Maximum ST radon level pCi/l	# long & short term test kits distributed	# test kits used	% of test kits used	# Households	# Homes tested	% Homes tested	# Homes that need mitigated	# Homes mitigated	% Homes mitigated	# Homes tested in a real estate transaction	# Homes built RRNC
Carson City	1,461	870	591	40.5%	4.54	100.5	3,272	1,978	60.5%	21,122	1,672	7.9%	578	72	12.5%	104	17
Churchill	381	325	56	14.7%	2.70	16.4	899	465	51.7%	9,221	439	4.8%	54	9	16.7%	11	3
Clark	2,290	2,084	206	9.0%	1.84	66.0	6,662	2,907	43.6%	706,037	3,180	0.5%	202	46	22.8%	111	214
Douglas	3,424	2,063	1,361	39.7%	5.01	117.9	7,725	4,981	64.5%	19,226	3,928	20.4%	1,303	245	18.8%	311	64
Elko	311	191	120	38.6%	4.91	57.3	759	343	45.2%	17,512	380	2.2%	117	10	8.5%	8	1
Esmeralda	3	3	0	0%	1.40	1.9	18	3	16.7%	514	5	1.0%	0				
Eureka	26	18	8	30.8%	4.93	35.1	145	30	20.7%	709	34	4.8%	8		0%	1	
Humboldt	187	119	68	36.4%	4.70	58.3	446	270	60.5%	6,256	223	3.6%	67	6	9.0%	4	2
Lander	108	90	18	16.7%	3.14	24.9	241	157	65.1%	1,980	151	7.6%	18	2	11.1%	9	1
Lincoln	73	49	24	32.9%	5.94	121.0	183	100	54.6%	1,976	99	5.0%	24		0%	1	
Lyon	822	583	239	29.1%	3.61	135	1,615	924	57.2%	18,548	968	5.2%	222	29	13.1%	27	12
Mineral	88	51	37	42.0%	4.67	28.0	206	97	47.1%	2,249	99	4.4%	37	3	8.1%	4	
Nye	143	130	13	9.1%	1.84	9.2	393	191	48.6%	18,274	186	1.0%	12	1	8.3%	8	1
Pershing	156	68	88	56.4%	6.86	42.7	488	241	49.4%	2,062	190	9.2%	88	7	8.0%	3	
Storey	27	20	7	25.9%	2.67	7.8	114	47	41.2%	1,839	43	2.3%	7		0%		
Washoe	7,553	5,902	1,651	21.9%	3.40	195.0	17,545	9,192	52.4%	161,892	9,172	5.7%	1,568	375	23.9%	706	74
White Pine	198	137	61	30.8%	3.91	32.8	511	241	47.2%	3,479	230	6.6%	59	2	3.4%	6	1
Unknown	4	3	1	25%	2.78	5.3	64	13	20.3%		15		1		0%	2	
<b>Total</b>	<b>17,255</b>	<b>12,706</b>	<b>4,549</b>	<b>26.4%</b>	<b>3.68</b>	<b>195.0</b>	<b>41,286</b>	<b>22,180</b>	<b>53.7%</b>	<b>992,896</b>	<b>21,014</b>	<b>2.12%</b>	<b>4,365</b>	<b>807</b>	<b>18.5%</b>	<b>1316</b>	<b>390</b>

\*# Valid Tests and # Homes Tested: Data from the Nevada Radon Program's database of test results was combined with information provided from certified Radon Measurement and Mitigation Providers, as well as AccuStar Lab, Alpha Energy Laboratories, Pro Lab, Air Chek Inc., Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health-Radiation Control Program and the Washoe County District Health Department. The Household data is from 2012 Census data.

\*\*# Test kits Distributed: includes only short- and long-term tests distributed by the Nevada Radon Education Program, Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health-Radiation Control Program, and the Washoe County District Health Department.

## Nevada Radon Short-Term Test Results\*

From 1989 to June 30, 2015

Nevada counties	Carson City		Churchill		Clark		Douglas		Elko		Esmeralda	
Total number of usable tests per county	1,461		381		2,290		3,424		309		3	
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	870	591	325	56	2,084	206	2,063	1,361	190	119	3	0
% of homes tested that have elevated radon levels	40.45%		14.70%		9.00%		39.75%		38.51%		sample size too small	

Nevada counties	Eureka		Humboldt		Lander		Lincoln		Lyon		Mineral	
Total number of usable tests per county	26		187		108		73		822		88	
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	18	8	119	68	90	18	49	24	583	239	51	37
% of homes tested that have elevated radon levels	30.77%		36.36%		16.67%		32.88%		29.08%		42.05%	

Nevada counties	Nye		Pershing		Storey		Washoe		White Pine		TOTALS	
Total number of usable tests per county	143		156		27		7,555		198		17,255	
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	130	13	68	88	20	7	5,903	1,652	137	61	12,706	4,549
% of homes tested that have elevated radon levels	9.09%		56.41%		25.93%		21.87%		30.81%		26.36%	

\*State data provided by the Nevada State Health Division, Nevada certified radon testers and the following labs: AccuStar Labs, Alpha Energy Laboratories, Air Chek, Inc. and Pro Lab. 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. (Schools & large buildings not included.)

## Nevada Radon Long-Term Test Results\*\*

From January 2001 to June 30, 2015

Nevada counties	Carson City	Churchill	Clark	Douglas	Elko	Humboldt	Lander	Lincoln	Lyon	Pershing	Washoe	White Pine	TOTALS									
Total number of usable tests per county	49	5	37	118	8	4	1	1	33	3	229	8	496									
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	<4.0	≥4.0								
No. of long-term radon test results	21	28	5	0	31	6	85	33	5	3	3	1	26	7	2	1	169	60	6	2	353	143
% of homes tested that have high radon levels	57.1%	0%	16.2%	28.0%	38%	25.0%	100%	100%	21.2%	33.3%	26.2%	25.0%	28.83%									

\*Data for long-term results was cleaned for test results greater than the EPA protocol period, therefore, there are less results than last quarter.

\*\*State data provided by RSSI, Alpha Energy Laboratories 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. (Schools & large buildings not included.)

## Radon Zone Summaries

Zones	Counties	Total Tests	Tests > 4 pCi/l	% high radon
Zone 1	Carson City, Douglas, Eureka, Lander, Lincoln, Lyon, Mineral, Pershing, White Pine	6,360	2,428	38.18%
Zone 2	Churchill, Elko, Esmeralda, Humboldt, Nye, Storey, Washoe	8,605	1,915	22.25%
Zone 3	Clark	2,290	206	9.00%
Statewide statistics		17,255	4,549	26.36%

Zones	Counties	Total Tests	Tests > 4 pCi/l	% high radon
Zone 1	Carson City, Douglas, Eureka, Lander, Lincoln, Lyon, Mineral, Pershing, White Pine	201	65	32.34%
Zone 2	Churchill, Elko, Esmeralda, Humboldt, Nye, Storey, Washoe	220	54	24.55%
Zone 3	Clark	35	5	14.29%
Statewide statistics		456	124	27.19%



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