



# 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:

- National Radon Action Month efforts increase awareness in Nevada
- Reno Home & Garden Show a success for NREP
- Radon education reaches rural Nevada

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## Nevada takes action during NRAM

The health risk of elevated radon levels in homes was the message the Nevada Radon Education Program promoted in January during National Radon Action Month (NRAM). The program promotes the message year-round, but efforts were increased in January with special events and programs with concentrated outreach efforts.

NREP efforts included television and radio public service announcements and interviews, newspaper articles, newsletters, exhibits and educational presentations. Governor Jim Gibbons signed a proclamation declaring January as Radon Action Month in Nevada.

The Reno office of University of Nevada Cooperative Extension (UNCE) was swarmed with people after the Reno Gazette-Journal ran an article, "Radon: Is it in your Home?" highlight-

ing the dangers of radon. The day after the article ran, the office received over 400 phone calls and gave out over 200 free radon test kits.



Megan Long explains short-term testing to JoAnne Shively during National Radon Action Month.

Although this was UNCE's first year to participate in NRAM activities, the program's number of activities and efforts were recognized by EPA as fifth in the nation.

"With all of the positive response, January was an exciting month for the Nevada Radon Education Program and

will pave the way for future years," said Megan Long, assistant program director for NREP.

"We can take all of the success and excitement from this month's efforts and use it to build upon our program throughout the year."

Through these efforts, 1,384 citizens requested free test kits through March. As a result, 477 homes were tested, with 26% of the homes having elevated radon levels.

Free test kits will be offered by the Extension program for a limited time.



NRAM news article created radon test kit

## Reno Home & Garden Show a success

The 33rd Annual Reno Home & Garden Show drew a record-breaking 4,300 people this year, and NREP participated as one of over 600 exhibitors. A radon exhibit was displayed and free test kits were available to those who were interested.

NREP gave out 203 short-term radon test kits and over

350 pieces of literature. To date, 39 test kits have been used, with 35% of the homes having elevated radon levels.

Many visitors were interested in the EPA map of radon zones for Nevada, which show elevated radon potential for different areas.



Free short-term radon test kits were provided by UNCE at the Home & Garden Show.

## UNCE volunteers train for health fair

The radon education program took a trip to Churchill County, where six volunteers in Fallon were ready to learn. On Jan. 28, the volunteers braved the cold winter weather to come to a radon education meeting. They watched a slide show about the dangers of radon, where radon comes from, and the health effects associated with radon exposure.

The volunteers, Carmen Bell, John Strahan, Pat Manubi, Dave Smith, Pat Drouin, and Ken Catlin asked a variety of questions about radon gas and went through the test kit sign-out process. They took this information to

a local health fair held Feb. 2 at the Fallon Convention Center.

The volunteers handed out brochures on radon and distributed over 75 free short-term radon test kits to local residents. Of those, 15 homes were tested, with two homes having elevated radon levels.

The volunteer training was a successful venture for the radon program. The Nevada Radon Education Program would welcome more volunteers for outreach in other communities. To volunteer, call Megan Long at (775) 784-4848.



Churchill County UNCE volunteers from left : Carmen Bell, John Strahan, Pat Manubi, Dave Smith, Pat Drouin, and Ken Catlin.

*...an estimated one out of every 10 homes in Nevada has elevated radon levels.*

## Nevada program offers free radon test kits

The Nevada Radon Education Program sent out an overwhelming number of test kits in the mail after various media coverage sparked local interest during radon action month. The University of Nevada Cooperative Extension (UNCE) in Reno took over 100 requests in one day for radon kits.

UNCE mailed out free short-term radon test kits to

those who live too far from their local county Extension office or are unable to pick up test kits at the county office. With a charge of \$2.50 for postage and

packing, the kit includes analysis, a postage-paid mailer and laboratory test report.

The program is only offering free short-term test kits for a limited time. Persons interested in free test kits should visit their local UNCE office, the Washoe County District Health Department or the Nevada State Health Division. For more information call UNCE, (775) 784-4848.



Free short-term radon test kits are available by mail for a limited time.

Rayleen Earney of Las Vegas was one of 47 receiving radon information and a free test kit at the Las Vegas Health and Wellness Fair on Feb. 23.



## Radon education highlighted in Las Vegas

University of Nevada Cooperative Extension in Las Vegas hosted a free health and wellness fair on Saturday, Feb. 23. Health services, nutrition, medical screenings and radon were the highlights of this event.

There were 30 other booths and more than 200 local Nevadans in attendance. NREP staff distributed a variety of educational material on radon and radon testing and 47 short-term radon test kits. Of

those, five homes were tested with none of the homes having a radon problem.

"It was nice to get some test kits out in Las Vegas so that we can collect more data statewide. We are still waiting for most of the people who took a free kit, to test their home," said Megan Long, assistant director for the radon program. Megan worked at the Las Vegas health fair and helped inform visitors about the different risks associated with radon.

# Grand Sierra Resort hosts Radon booth

For the second time in the past six months, the Grand Sierra Resort hosted a radon information booth. The first time the display was set up for the community, but in January, the resort offered a health awareness event for the Grand Sierra Resort employees. Many employees used their lunch breaks and days off to attend the event.

The NREP booth highlighted the dangers of radon and offered employees a chance to have their radon questions answered. Many booth

visitors took test kits for themselves and coupons for free test kits for their friends and families.

Overall, NREP distributed 84 short-term radon test kits and over 100 radon fact sheets, including 11 Spanish language-translated fact sheets. Of the 84 test kits distributed, 12 test kits have been used and none of those homes had elevated radon levels.

Employees were able to view a radon slide show and look over a variety of EPA publications on radon.



Grand Sierra employees came to the NREP booth for information on radon.

The Grand Sierra Resort has been a great partner in radon education outreach and has plans to host NREP in future health awareness events.

## Radon team welcomes director

Nevada welcomes Susan H. Roberts as the new director for its Radon Education Program.



S. Roberts

Susan comes to us from the nationally recognized radon program in Alabama, which operates through the Alabama Cooperative Extension System. With over 10 years of radon experience, she will be a very valuable addition to the radon team and we are excited to have her!

## Washoe County employees learn about the radon health risk

Renowned Medical Center, in Reno, hosted a health and wellness event on Jan. 31. The fair was open to Washoe County employees and their families.

In addition to NREP, there were representatives from physical fitness organizations and the employees assistance program. Frank Flavin, Western Area Director for UNCE, distributed information and free test kits at the radon education booth.

The radon education station was

paired with the lung function testing program. "While participants were in line for their lung function test, they received information concerning the health hazards posed by radon," noted Flavin. "Many of the participants were unaware of the dangers to lung health posed by high levels of radon in their homes."

To date, of the 60 kits distributed, 16 have been tested, and none of the tests revealed elevated levels of radon.

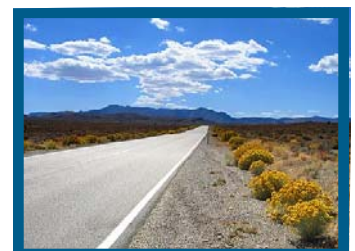
# Radon team takes road trip

NREP took many steps during National Radon Action Month to educate Nevadans on the dangers of elevated radon levels in homes. At the end of the month, the program staff took a road trip to reach rural communities with the radon health risk message.

The mission was off to a good start in Churchill County, where NREP trained volunteers for a future community health fair. From there, the team traveled to Pershing County, a radon Zone 1 risk county, to give two

radon presentations to residents of Lovelock and its neighboring towns. Over 60 people showed up for the educational meetings, which included a slideshow presentation followed by an informal question-and-answer session.

From there, NREP staff stopped in Humboldt County to give the UNCE office in Winnemucca free test kits to distribute to the local community. Finally, the program traveled to the northeast corner of Nevada for a presentation at the Elko County's Great Basin College.



NREP travels the open roads of rural Nevada.

Many who attended the Elko presentation had previously tested their homes for radon and had received high results. NREP was able to provide them with a free test kit to confirm their results as well as information about mitigating their homes for radon.



# Nevada Radon Short-Term Test Results\*

From October 2007 to March 31, 2008

Nevada Counties	Carson City		Churchill		Clark		Douglas		Elko		Esmeralda	
Total number of tests per County	72		31		58		133		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	47	25	26	5	54	4	84	49	19	11	0	0
% of Homes Tested that have High Radon Levels	34.72%		16.13%		6.90%		36.84%		36.67%			

Nevada Counties	Eureka		Humboldt		Lander		Lincoln		Lyon		Mineral	
Total number of tests per County	1		6		0		7		40		5	
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	0	0	5	2	32	8	3	2
% of Homes Tested that have High Radon Levels	100.00%		33.33%				28.57%		20.00%		40.00%	

Nevada Counties	Nye		Pershing		Storey		Washoe		White Pine		Grand Totals	
Total number of tests per County	9		26		2		525		10		955	
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	9	0	10	16	2	0	428	97	7	3	730	225
% of Homes Tested that have High Radon Levels	0.00%		61.54%		0.00%		18.48%		30.00%		23.56%	

State data provided by the Nevada State Health Division and AccuStar Labs. Results based on independently tested homes, not scientific sampling. Where possible, post mitigation results are not included; usable results are from low est level of the home, and same address tests are averaged.

Governor Jim Gibbons issued a proclamation declaring January 2008 as "Radon Action Month in Nevada."



*A Proclamation by the Governor*

WHEREAS, radon is a colorless, odorless, naturally occurring radioactive gas that threatens the health of our citizens; and

WHEREAS, the challenge is that we can't see, smell or taste radon, so it's easy to forget that radon may be a problem in homes, schools or any building in Nevada; and

WHEREAS, radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer deaths in the United States and the number one cause among non-smokers; and

WHEREAS, one in 15 homes across the U.S. has an elevated level, which means that any home in Nevada may have an elevated level of radon, even if other homes in the same neighborhood do not; and

WHEREAS, testing for radon is simple and inexpensive and when identified, the problems can be fixed; and

WHEREAS, University of Nevada Cooperative Extension, the Nevada State Health Division and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency are supporting efforts to encourage Americans to test their homes for radon, mitigate elevated levels of radon, and build new homes with radon-resistant materials and features.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JIM GIBBONS, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, do hereby proclaim January 2008, as

**RADON ACTION MONTH**

*In Witness Whereof*, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Nevada to be affixed at the State Capitol in Carson City, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_

*Jim Gibbons*  
By the Governor: Governor

*Tom Miller*  
Secretary of State

By \_\_\_\_\_ Deputy

## Radon Education Program Statistics

	Oct-Dec 07	Jan-March 08	Total to date
Radon phone inquiries	81	1,895	1,976
Newspaper articles	34	42	76
TV reports	3	12	15
Radio PSAs		5	5
Radon exhibits	5	9	14
Radon publications distributed	358	2,028	2,386
Test kits distributed- UNCE	279	1,718	1,997
Homes tested- UNCE	82	548	630
Homes mitigated	1	6	7
Homes tested in real estate transaction		1	1
Homes with Radon system		3	3
Number/list of mitigators	3		3



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