

# NEVADA RADON REPORT

## Nevada Radon Education Program



University of Nevada  
Cooperative Extension

A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROGRAM THROUGH THE NEVADA DIVISION of PUBLIC and BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND THE U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Volume 7 - Number 1 - FY 2014 July through September 2013

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## 94 test kits given at WCSD Health Fair

The Washoe County School District (WCSD) held its annual Health Fair on Sept. 7, at Wooster High School. The Nevada Radon Education Program (NREP) was invited to participate in the event which was held from 7 am to noon. More than 650 people from Reno, Sparks, Sun Valley and Fernley areas attended the health fair for WCSD employees, retirees, and WCSD families.

NREP distributed 94 free short-term radon test kits, as well as numerous Environmental Protection Agency publications and information about testing homes for radon, fixing homes with radon problems, and building new homes with radon-resistant new construction.

In addition to the radon program, other health organizations participated, including Hometown



Jamie Roice-Gomes speaks to WCSD Health Fair attendees about testing their home for radon.

Health, Carson-Tahoe Health, St. Mary's, Renown Health, American Cancer Society and American Red Cross, American Heart Association, and Northern Nevada Medical Center.

## CABNR/NAES/UNCE Main Station Field Day 2013 held Sept. 14

University of Nevada, Nevada Agricultural Experiment Station (NAES), College of Agriculture, Biotechnology and Natural Resources (CABNR) and University of Nevada Cooperative Extension (UNCE) hosted their annual Field Day on Saturday, Sept. 14, at the UNR Main Station Field Lab located off Reno's Clean Water Way.

The Nevada Radon Education Program (NREP) was one of several programs/research study booths to represent UNCE. NREP hosted a booth and gave out free



Susan Howe and Jamie Roice-Gomes gave Bob Conrad a free radon test kit at Field Day Sept. 14.

radon test kits, as well as literature and radon program giveaways to the booth's 135-plus attendees. NREP gave out 59 short-term radon test kits.

Other UNCE programs represented were 4-H Youth Development, Master Gardeners, Bioplastic Container Cropping Systems Research and the Living with Fire program.

According to the event organizers, the day was a great success, as the weather was pleasant and more than 500 visitors attended the tours, booths, plant sale, hay rides and children's activities.

## NREP participates in Henry Schein Safety Day event

Henry Schein, Inc., invited the Nevada Radon Education Program (NREP) to participate in its annual employee Safety Days, held July 18 and 19, at its administrative office on Rock Boulevard and its distribution warehouse on Vista Boulevard in Sparks.

Susan Howe, Radon Program Director, manned the booth at both of the events. About 40 employees visited the Radon booth on Thursday, and about 50 on Friday.

"Having employee safety programs saves employees time and offers them a chance to learn about fitness and safety issues during an otherwise busy workday," said Howe.

In addition to the radon booth, there were several fitness companies offering discounted memberships, child safety, and home, auto and health insurance.

About 53 short-term radon test kits were distributed to employees during the two-day event.



Susan Howe gave Liz Miller a free radon test kit at Henry Schein's annual employee Safety Day, July 18.

## NREP visits Hidden Valley Elementary

Hidden Valley Elementary School student teacher, Kaleigh Richards, invited the Nevada Radon Education Program to give radon presentations to Mr. Greg West's and Mrs. Catherine Connolly's 6th grade classes on Sept. 20. Following the Radon presentations, the children played Radon Bingo and the Radon Quiz game for Radon Program prizes.

"This is the first time we implemented the Radon Quiz game, and it was a success," said Jamie Roice-Gomes, Radon Education Coordinator. "The kids seemed very excited to engage in the quiz game for the prizes."

The Radon Quiz game is a series of radon-related questions NREP employees ask the students following the presentation. The first child to stand up and answer the question correctly, wins a prize.

About 45 students saw the presentation and 18 prizes were awarded to Radon Bingo and Radon Quiz game winners.

Five families requested test kits which were offered free to students.



Jamie Roice-Gomes and Susan Howe offered the Radon Bingo game to students after the radon presentation. Students learned more about radon and also won some nice radon giveaway prizes. Students pictured are in Mrs. Connolly's sixth grade class at Hidden Valley Elementary School.



Jamie Roice-Gomes gave a radon educational presentation to Mr. West's sixth grade class at Hidden Valley Elementary School on Sept. 20. Students were able to win prizes from Radon Bingo, and the Radon Quiz game questions.



UNCE was represented at the Sept. 25 Douglas County Health Fair by the Douglas County Cooperative Extension office, the Living With Fire Program and the Nevada Radon Education Program. Pictured are Sonya Sistare, marketing coordinator, Living With Fire Program, and Shayla Kranovich, who helped distribute 70 radon test kits at the event.

## 23rd National Radon Conference takes place in Springfield, IL

Attendees of the 23rd National Radon Training Conference in Springfield, IL were treated to a surprise guest speaker, "Abraham Lincoln," the 16th president of the United States. "Lincoln" greeted the stunned audience with a rousing welcome, then spoke again at the Joint Leadership Update and Awards Luncheon. He also made himself available for pictures that were made into photo buttons.

The conference proceeded with a welcome from Jonathan Monken, Illinois Emergency Management Agency director, Shawn Price, American Association of Radon Scientists and Technologists president, and Joe Kilinger, Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors chairperson.

A keynote address was provided by Harold Wimmer, president and CEO of the American Lung Association (ALA) who noted that lung cancer takes the lives of more men and women than any other cancer in this country, taking the lives of more than 158,000 people every year.



Harold Wimmer  
President and CEO  
American Lung Association

"Of those, an estimated 21,000 are from exposure to radon," said Wimmer. "Which means you are on the front lines of one of the most important public health battlefields in America today."

Testing for radon is an ALA action item for prevention of lung cancer.

"Prevention is the key, and testing for radon is a very important message," Wimmer noted. "Radon mitigation brings value, improved air quality and a better place to live in."



Jamie Roice-Gomes and Susan Howe had their picture taken with "Abe Lincoln," surprise visitor to the 23rd National Radon Conference in Springfield, IL.



Nevada radon program representatives Jamie Roice-Gomes, Susan Howe and Adrian Howe, are pictured with Bill Long, EPA director, Center for Radon and Air Toxics, and Susie Shimek, EPA Environmental Protection Specialist at the National Radon Training Conference held Sept. 22-25, in Springfield, IL.

# Radon news on the internet...

9-7-13  
RecordCourier.com

**The Record-Courier**

Home News Sports Entertainment Opinion Community Outdoors Photos & Videos Visitors Guide

**Entries sought for Nevada Radon Poster Contest**

NEW! So you're getting something more dangerous, odorless and colorless. But can result in serious illness or death.

That's the challenge for young artists by the University of Nevada Cooperative Extension's 2014 Nevada Radon Poster Contest.

The contest is open to children 9-14 years old enrolled in public, private, territorial, tribal, Department of Defense and home schools. Children can also enter through a sponsoring club, such as an art, computer, library, reading, science, scouting, youth or 4-H club.

7-5-13  
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**2014 Radon Poster Contest, Open until Oct. 31, 2013**  
FR 47602013 - 9/30/13

Radon is a radioactive, odorless, colorless and tasteless gas that comes from the ground and can cause lung cancer. This type of lung cancer is preventable and the only way to know if a home has elevated levels is to test it.

Every year, the Nevada Radon Education Program (NREP) needs a proactive to raise awareness during January's National Radon Action Month. The top three in Poster contest will continue to the National Radon Poster Contest.

The Nevada Radon Poster Contest is open to children ages 9-14 and offers cash prizes: \$60 for second, \$45 for third and \$25 each for the fourth and fifth place. Sponsoring organizations' representatives of the children who win first, second, and third place will be used toward classroom supplies. The first place winner second place \$45 and third place \$30.

The Nevada Radon Poster Contest begins July 1, 2013 and ends Oct. 31, 2013.

9-12-13  
RadonLeaders.org

**RadonLeaders.org**

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AAST EPA

Check out our results in the next five years!

2014 Nevada Radon Poster Contest Opens to Students

September 11, 2013 | University of Nevada

University of Nevada Cooperative Extension is inviting Nevada students to showcase their artistic talents and promote radon awareness by entering the 2014 Nevada Radon Poster Contest.

9-9-13  
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**2014 Nevada Radon Poster Contest open to students**

By JENNIFER L. BROWN | 9/9/13 12:49 PM

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Posters in this year's Nevada Radon Poster Contest should convey some of these important messages: 1) What is radon? 2) Where does radon come from? 3) How does radon get into our homes? 4) Radon can cause lung cancer, and 5) Test your home for radon. Posters will be judged on content accuracy, visual communication of the topic, reproducibility and originality. They can be in any format: drawing, painting, collage, pencil, photograph or computer graphics. There is no fee to enter, but each child is limited to one entry.

Entries will be received by Oct. 31 at the Washoe County Office of Cooperative Extension, 4955 Energy Way, Reno, 89502-4186.

9-12-13  
uncc.unr.edu

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**NEWS & EVENTS**

**2014 Nevada Radon Poster Contest opens to students**

Posted 9/12/13

Collaborative effort aims to raise awareness of dangers of odorless gas that causes lung cancer

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9-10-13  
laketahoehome.com

**LAKE TAHOE NEWS**

FEATURED ARTICLES NEWS OUTDOOR & SPORTS GEAR BAG LIFESTYLE VOICES FOOD & WINE

Home » Grab Bag » Young artists needed for radon poster contest

**Young artists needed for radon poster contest**

By JENNIFER L. BROWN | 9/10/13 12:49 PM

University of Nevada Cooperative Extension is looking for Nevada students to showcase their artistic talents and by entering the 2014 Nevada Radon Poster Contest.

Children ages 9 to 14 who are enrolled in public, private, territorial, tribal, Department of Defense and home schools. Children can also enter through a sponsoring club, such as an art, computer, library, youth or 4-H club.

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9-12-13  
topix.com

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9-9-13  
KTWN.com

**2 NEWS**

Coverage You Can Count On

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7-17-13  
Southern Area Blog

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**SOUTHERN AREA BLOG**

Conservation for Clark, Washoe, Clark, Lincoln and Southern Nevada counties

**Radon Poster Contest Deadline Oct. 31**

By JENNIFER L. BROWN | 7/17/13 12:49 PM

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# Radon in newspapers...

The Record-Courier | Wednesday, September 11, 2013

**Entries sought for Nevada Radon Poster Contest**

Sept. 11, 2013  
The Record Courier

**Staff Reports**

How do you prevent something that's invisible, odorless and colorless, but can result in serious illness and even death?

That's the challenge for young artists by the University of Nevada Cooperative Extension's 2014 Nevada Radon Poster Contest.

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2 NEWS website header and article title '2014 Nevada Radon Poster Contest Opens to Students'.

**2 NEWS**

Coverage You Can Count On

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Posted 9/9/13 12:49 PM

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# Radon test kit distribution for the July-September quarter

The data in the three charts on this page show the number of test kits distributed at various events and activities for the July through September quarter. They show the number of test kits distributed

as well as the number of test kits used. The percentage represents the percent of usage within the activity, presentation or from partner distribution locations.

Short-term test kits distributed from Special Projects, Partners and Cooperative Extension offices from July to September 2013

Distribution point	No. kits distributed	No. tested	% tested
Clark County UNCE	13	3	23.1%
Douglas County UNCE	17	4	23.5%
Elko County UNCE	2	1	50%
Eureka County UNCE	2	1	50%
Incline Village Recreation Center	1	1	100%
Lyon County UNCE	1	0	0%
Nevada Tahoe Conservation District Office	14	8	57%
Northern Nye and Esmeralda County UNCE	2	2	100%
Tahoe Regional Planning Agency	1	0	0%
Washoe County UNCE	32	16	50%
White Pine County UNCE	3	0	0%
Mitigator Norm Denny kit distribution	8	4	50%
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>41.7%</b>

Short-term test kits distributed at Northern and Central area programs from July to September 2013

Date	Program	No. kits distributed	No. tested	% tested
7/18/13	Henry Schein Safety Day	53	2	3.8%
9/7/13	WCSD Health Fair	94	5	5.3%
9/14/13	2013 Main Station Field Day	59	3	5.1%
9/20/13	Hidden Valley Elem School	5	0	0%
9/25/13	Douglas County Health Fair	70	0	0%
<b>Program Totals</b>		<b>281</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>3.6%</b>

Short-term test kits distributed by Mail with Coupons or Phone requests from July to September 2013

Distribution point	No. kits distributed	No. tested	% tested
Reno mail order	1	0	0%
Website coupons	7	3	42.9%
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>37.5%</b>

## Jamie Roice-Gomes attends Radon Training Course

Jamie Roice-Gomes, Radon Education Coordinator, attended the Western Regional Radon Training Center's two-day radon measurement training, Jul. 5-6, at the University of Colorado, Colorado Springs.

The University of Colorado's Dr. James F. Burkhart taught the 16-hour course. Out of the six measurement and mitigation course students, Roice-Gomes was the only radon educator among them. Topics ranged from radon physics to radon device placement. The course also taught attendees how to respond to difficult technical questions.

Following the two-day course, Roice-Gomes took and passed the National Radon Proficiency Program's, Residential Radon Measurement Provider exam and is now certified as a Residential Measurement Provider.

"I am happy that Jamie has received this specialized training and is now more knowledgeable about radon and its behavior," said Susan Howe, program director for the Nevada Radon Education Program.

"With measurement certification, we are better able to answer questions and advise homeowners on what they should do if they have elevated radon levels."



Jamie Roice-Gomes  
Radon Education  
Coordinator

## Students learning about radon can win NREP Frisbees

The Nevada Radon Education Program recently visited several area schools to educate students about the radon health risk and offered free radon test kits to their families. After the presentation, students play the Radon Quiz game and prizes are awarded for correct answers.



Jamie Roice-Gomes shows off the new Frisbee

Radon Bingo is also played and students win prizes as they fill their bingo cards while they learn more about radon.

Prizes include Radon Poster Contest knapsacks, backpacks and t-shirts. A recent addition to the prize choices are translucent yellow Frisbees that Jamie Roice-Gomes designed with the radiation trefoil symbol.

Teachers can request NREP to visit their schools to present a radon educational program to their classes by calling the Radon hotline at 888-RADON10.

## Nevada Radon Short-Term Test Results\*

From 1989 to Sept. 30, 2013

Nevada counties	Carson City		Churchill		Clark		Douglas		Elko		Esmeralda	
Total number of usable tests per county	1,197		319		1,935		2,958		252		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	735	462	278	41	1,768	167	1,785	1,173	161	91	3	0
% of homes tested that have elevated radon levels	38.60%		12.85%		8.63%		39.66%		36.11%		sample size too small	

  

Nevada counties	Eureka		Humboldt		Lander		Lincoln		Lyon		Mineral	
Total number of usable tests per county	19		119		60		53		632		67	
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	13	6	85	34	46	14	36	17	450	182	46	21
% of homes tested that have elevated radon levels	31.58%		28.57%		23.33%		32.08%		28.80%		31.34%	

  

Nevada counties	Nye		Pershing		Storey		Washoe		White Pine		TOTALS	
Total number of usable tests per county	128		107		17		5,434		173		13,475	
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	116	12	50	57	12	5	4,300	1,134	123	50	10,008	3,467
% of homes tested that have elevated radon levels	9.38%		53.27%		29.41%		20.87%		28.90%		25.73%	

\*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 Sept. 30, 2013

Nevada counties	Carson City	Churchill	Clark	Douglas	Elko	Humboldt	Lincoln	Lyon	Nye	Pershing	Washoe	White Pine	TOTALS
Total number of usable tests per county	35	5	31	98	6	3	1	28	1	3	172	8	391
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	<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	20 15	5 0	26 5	70 28	3 3	2 1	0 1	22 6	0 1	2 1	128 44	6 2	284 107
% of homes tested that have high radon levels	42.9%	0%	16.1%	28.6%	50%	33%	100%	21%	100%	33%	25.6%	25%	27.37%

\*\*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 Education Program Numbers

UNCE Radon Program	prior to Sep 07	FY 08	FY 09	FY 10	FY 11	FY 12	FY 13	Jul-Sep 13	Total to date
Radon phone and email inquiries		2,136	2,688	1,911	2,209	1,946	3,148	90	14,128
Direct contacts promoting radon testing and mitigation		3,259	14,000	10,428	7,862	7,768	8,416	801	52,534
Newspaper/magazine articles	1	99	61	85	68	122	105	1	542
Number of TV reports		17	9	57	37	6	4		130
Number of TV PSAs						592	310		902
Website pages of NV Radon information			45	113	253	113	100	9	633
Number of radio PSAs		6	6	26	6	195	3,755		3,994
Number of radon exhibits		51	106	186	148	183	77	5	756
Radon publications/info distributed		2,798	67,071	59,378	58,545	99,057	100,905	18,928	406,682
Web site page hits		29,466	59,288	75,920	85,617	152,793	33,787		436,871
Test kits distributed	971	2,469	8,208	5,321	4,829	3,993	4,929	389	31,109
Homes tested-Short-Term*	1574	1,316	4,062	2,590	2,339	2,025	2,043	139	16,088
Homes tested-Long Term**	41	26	56	30	30	28	33	2	246
School buildings tested	6	1	16	10		15	1		49
School buildings mitigated		2	9			0	4		15
Homes mitigated	4	20	75	92	128	132	112	23	586
Homes with repaired mitigation system or fan replacements				1	1	1	0		3
Large buildings tested		27		31		152	16		226
Large buildings mitigated			2			1	0		3
Homes tested in Real Estate transaction	1	27	68	84	168	259	102	66	775
Homes built with RRNC features		7	36	30	18	22	26		139
Number of certified Mitigators		3	2	-1			-2		2
Number of Builders using RRNC					5	3	1		9
No. of Realtors promoting Radon testing						26	7		33

## Radon Zone Summaries

Nevada Radon Zone Short-Term Test Result Summary				
Zones	Counties	Total Tests	Tests > 4 pCi/l	% high radon
Zone 1	Carson City, Douglas, Eureka, Lander, Lincoln, Lyon, Mineral, Pershing, White Pine	5,268	1,983	37.64%
Zone 2	Churchill, Elko, Esmeralda, Humboldt, Nye, Storey, Washoe	6,272	1,317	21.00%
Zone 3	Clark	1,935	167	8.63%
Statewide statistics		13,475	3,467	25.73%

Nevada Radon Zone Long-Term Test Result Summary				
Zones	Counties	Total Tests	Tests > 4 pCi/l	% high radon
Zone 1	Carson City, Douglas, Eureka, Lander, Lincoln, Lyon, Mineral, Pershing, White Pine	173	53	30.64%
Zone 2	Churchill, Elko, Esmeralda, Humboldt, Nye, Storey, Washoe	187	49	26.20%
Zone 3	Clark	31	5	16.13%
Statewide statistics		391	107	27.37%



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