

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 8 - Number 1 - FY 2015 July through September 2014

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NREP participates in home show

Nevada Radon Education Program (NREP) participated in the Home Means Nevada Fall Living & Home Show Sept. 19-21, at the Reno-Sparks Convention Center. The annual event is sponsored by the Builders Association of Northern Nevada.

NREP talked to 363 attendees and gave out 175 short-term radon test kits. Two-hundred pre-assembled poly bags of educational material were also distributed.

About 2,188 people attended the three-day event.



Jamie Roice-Gomes hands a test kit and packet of educational material to a home show attendee.

NREP attends 24th National Radon Training

The 24th National Radon Training Conference was held Sept. 28-Oct. 1 in Charleston, SC. Attending from Nevada were Susan Howe of the Nevada Radon Education Program (NREP), and Adrian Howe and Aaron Beck of the Radiation Control Program, Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health.

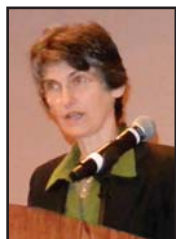
On Sunday, the group attended the Building Technical Capacity Committee's hands-on radon measurement training, to learn about different radon testing methods, device standards and protocols, quality assurance and quality control, and protocols for testing schools and large buildings.

Monday was a joint meeting with the American Association of Radon Scientists and Technologists (AARST) and the Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors (CRCPD). Janet McCabe, acting assistant administrator for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Office of Air and Radiation was the keynote speaker.

McCabe said that radon was a public health issue that can be fixed, but one that people need to protect themselves from.

"Radon is the top cause of lung cancer other than smoking," said McCabe. "But it is fixable."

» continued, See National, Page 2



Janet McCabe
Acting Assistant
Administrator,
Office of Air and
Radiation, EPA

Extension Directors' Association awards NREP Honorable Mention

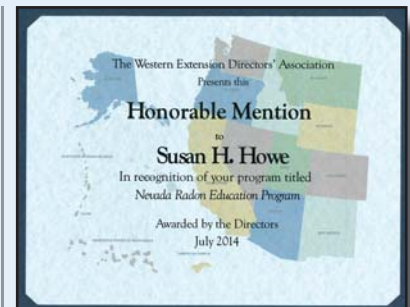
The Western Extension Directors' Association (WEDA) recognized Nevada's Radon Education Program (NREP) with an Honorable Mention in their selection of western programs of excellence. The Awards of Excellence were presented during WEDA's July 10 Western Region Joint Summer Meeting at Harveys Lake Tahoe in Stateline.

University of Nevada Cooperative Extension's Dean, Mark Walker, submitted the program's application in March, and was notified of the recognition in May.

"We greatly appreciate Dean Walker's recognition of our program as worthy to apply for the Award," said Susan Howe, program director. "We are honored to receive this award."

NREP was one of only two recipients of the honorable mention award.

The Awards of Excellence program recognizes Extension outreach education programming that has achieved outstanding accomplishments, results and impacts



The Nevada Radon Education Program received Honorable Mention recognition from WEDA's Awards of Excellence.

in addressing contemporary issues in one or more of the 13 Western states and territories.

The awards are given annually to recognize up to three programs (state and multistate combined) which represent the work of an individual or multidisciplinary team within a single or multistate setting. Honorable Mention awards may be granted, if deemed warranted by the review committee.

Radon test kit distribution from July to September 2014

The data in the two charts on this page show that 287 short-term test kits were distributed at several events, mail order requests, and Cooperative Extension and partner offices during the July through September quarter. Only 33 test

Short-term test kits distributed from Special Projects, Programs, Partners and Cooperative Extension offices from July-Sept. 2014			
Distribution point	No. kits distributed	No. tested	% tested
Douglas County Cooperative Extension	20	8	40%
Tahoe Regional Planning Agency	4	3	75%
Incline Village Recreation Center	7	5	71.4%
Mitigator Norm Denny kit distribution	5	4	80%
Southern Nye County Cooperative Extension	1	0	0%
Pershing County Cooperative Extension	9	6	66.7%
Washoe County Cooperative Extension	1	0	0%
7/10/14 NV Cancer Coalition Meeting	3	0	0%
9/19/14 Builders Assn. Northern NV home show	175	3	1.7%
9/24/14 HAWS Wellness Fair	55	1	1.8%
TOTALS	280	30	10.7%

kits distributed during the quarter were used as of Sept. 30. The overall testing percentage was low as the Radon Program doesn't encourage warm-weather testing.

Two radon test kits were sold through Eventbrite, the online ordering service instituted in March. There were also a few requests for test kits by mail.

Short-term test kits distributed by Mail with Coupons, Phone, or Online orders from July-Sept. 2014			
Distribution point	No. kits distributed	No. tested	% tested
Eventbrite online sale requests	2	1	50%
Douglas County coupon mail order	1	0	0%
Mail order requests	1	0	0%
Website coupon mail orders	3	2	66.7%
TOTALS	7	3	42.9%

National

Continued from Page 1

"Houses keep getting built, more houses where radon could exist," she said. "The devastating effect of lung cancer may well have been caused by radon."

"It is important work that we do," said McCabe. She said that radon is an important issue to the EPA administration and colleagues in the federal family.

McCabe spoke of the Federal Radon Action Plan, a federal partners working group focused on reducing the radon health risk. According to McCabe, the partners in the group that began almost two years ago has made a lot of progress. Partners include the departments of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), of Defense (DOD) of Agriculture (USDA), of Energy (DOE), of Health and Human Services (HHS), of the Interior (DOI), of Veterans Affairs (VA), Centers for Disease Control (CDC), and the General Services Administration (GSA).

"But there's more work to do," said McCabe. "We want to make sure that radon measurement is done in a confident way, that mitigations are reliable and cost effective, and new homes are built with radon-resistant new home construction."

Another informative speaker, Antonio Neri, M.D., medical epidemiologist in the Comprehensive Cancer Control Branch for the CDC, provided updates on radon activities at CDC's Division of Cancer Prevention and Control.

"There are 65 programs with 69 cancer plans in 50 states, DC, seven territories and seven tribal organizations," said Neri. The CDC's National Comprehensive Cancer Control Program's (NCCCP) priorities emphasize primary prevention of cancer, support early detection and treatment activities, address public health needs of cancer survivors, inform policy, systems and environmental changes to guide sustainable cancer control, promote health equity as it relates to cancer control, and demonstrate outcomes through evaluation.

To address radon, NCCCP activities include collaboration in the federal radon workgroup, EPA regional radon meetings, and co-investigations on multiple research studies with EPA, HUD and industry.

NCCCP also has a radon awareness campaign that includes the Comprehensive Cancer Control, radon programs and promising practices for radon policies. <http://www.cdc.gov/cancer/dpc/>



Anthony Neri, MD, MPD, of the CDC

prevention/policies_practices/radon/

Currently, about 26 states, DC and five tribes or territories have radon-specific laws, and 21 states have radon-specific cancer plan activities. Recently, Minnesota added radon legislation for radon notification in home sales, and Illinois added radon to its five-year cancer plan.

The jointly sponsored conference had 273 registrants through AARST. There were 106 CRCPD registrants, with attendees from 32 states, tribal nations, and partners from both EPA and coalitions.



Natalia Deardorff, Indoor Radon Program Manager, California Dept. of Public Health, Susan and Adrian Howe, Nevada Radon Program, and Shelly Rosenblum, EPA Region 9, Radiation & Indoor Environments, got together during the conference to compare notes on radon outreach.

Minden Rotary members learn about radon

Tuesday, July 22, Jamie Roice-Gomes presented an educational radon program to the Rotary Club of Minden at the Carson Valley Inn in Minden.

Twenty-five Rotary members attended the program and 15 individuals requested a radon kit.

"The members were very interested to learn about radon," said Roice-Gomes. "They were so interested that a member from the audience asked the Nevada Radon Education Program to present to his Rotary Club in Carson City at a later date."



Jamie Roice-Gomes spoke to the Minden Rotary Club at the Carson Valley Inn.

Radon in the news...

Aug. 22, 2014
Comstock Chronicle

Nevada's Radon Poster Contest opens for 2015



Hannah Corgan, an eighth-grader at Carson Valley Middle School, won first-place honors in the 2014 Nevada Radon Poster Contest.

The University of Nevada Cooperative Extension invites Nevada students to showcase their artistic talents and promote radon awareness by entering the 2015 Nevada Radon Poster Contest. The contest is open to all children ages 9-14 years old enrolled in public, private, territorial, tribal, Department of Defense and home schools. Children can participate as an art, computer, science, scouting, youth or 4-H club.

Radon is a radioactive, colorless, odorless gas that comes from the ground. It accumulates in homes 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 for it.

The poster contest is part of the Nevada Radon Education Program and is sponsored by Cooperative Extension, the Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health, the University and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Cooperative Extension has worked to raise awareness of the dangers of radon in the home since 2007. More than 18,649 homes in Nevada have been tested for radon. Radon is a radioactive, colorless, odorless gas that comes from the ground. It accumulates in homes 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 for it.

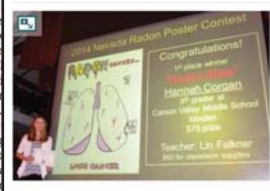
Posters in this year's Nevada Radon Poster Contest should convey one of these messages: 1) What is radon? 2) Where does radon come from? 3) How does radon get into our homes? 4) Radon can cause lung cancer, and how can we reduce the risk of lung cancer? 5) Test your home for radon. Posters will be judged on content accuracy, visual communication of the topic, reproducibility and originality. They can be created with crayon, collage, pencil, photographs or computer graphics. There is no fee to enter, but each child is limited to one entry. Entries must be received at 4955 Energy Way in Reno by Oct. 31.

Nevada radon poster contest open to students

Cooperative Extension

NEVADA APPEAL

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Cash prizes for the top five entries are \$75 for first place, \$60 for second, \$45 for third and \$25 for fourth and fifth place. The top three entries are also awarded cash prizes for their teachers or sponsoring organization's representative and are entered in the national contest. National contest winners receive \$1,000 for first place, \$600 for second, \$400 for third and \$400 for special online voting recognition. National winners will receive recognition, and the posters will be reproduced and displayed.

Aug. 11, 2014
Nevada System of Higher Education News

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FEATURED NEWS

*Indicates a subscription to the publication will be required to view some, or all, of the online article.

Nevada Cooperative Extension opens 2015 student radon poster contest

Carson Now, August 11: University of Nevada Cooperative Extension invites Nevada students to showcase their artistic talents and promote radon awareness by entering the 2015 Nevada Radon Poster Contest.

[Click to read the full story.](#)

Haws offers wellness event for employees

The Nevada Radon Education Program (NREP) participated in the Haws Wellness Walkabout: Exploring Wellness and Healthy Lifestyle Choices event on Sept. 24.

The event was held at the company's headquarters in Sparks. About 81 employees and their families visited NREP's booth and 55 short-term radon test kits were distributed.

Employees attended the Walkabout after they received their flu shots.

Other participants in the event were fitness companies, a food co-op, coffee company, Renown, Washoe County 4-H Club and Washoe County Parks.

"Our objective is to make our



Haws employees asked many questions about radon, as well as how to deploy radon tests.

employees aware of local resources that will enable them to make wise choices toward living a healthier lifestyle," said Barbara Welsh, wellness coordinator. "By providing resources to our employees, you can increase their awareness through your expertise."

"Thanks again for attending the wellness walkabout," said Welsh.



Jamie Roice-Gomes processed radon test kit distribution records at the HAWS Wellness Walkabout event Sept. 24.

"I've heard from quite a few employees that they appreciated the information you dispensed - Thank you!"

Radon on the internet...

Sept. 9, 2014
KTVN.com

Aug. 11, 2014
CarsonNow.org

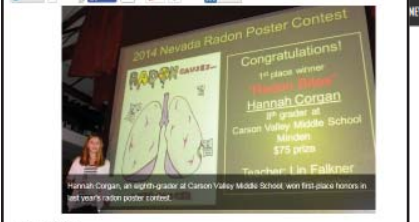
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Nevada Cooperative Extension opens 2015 student radon poster contest

Submitted by editor in Reno, 08/11/2014 - 11:42am

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By Tiffany Kozan

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September 2014
NevadaCancerCoalition.org

Nevada Cancer Coalition

NCC is dedicated to evidence-based strategies and coordination of cancer prevention, early detection, treatment, support, and research efforts to improve the quality of life for everyone in Nevada.

About Us Cancer Facts Healthcare Professionals Resources Events

4955 Energy Way
Reno NV, 89502
Phone: 888-723-6610
Website

Aug. 11, 2014
unce.unr.edu

University of Nevada Cooperative Extension Celebrating 100 years

2015 Nevada Radon Poster Contest open to students

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

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Aug. 12, 2014
ZephyrCove.crwe-pr.com

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Radon poster contest open to Nev. students

August 12, 2014 • Zephyr Cove • Lake Tahoe News

Aug. 12, 2014
InsideNorthernNevada.com

Inside Northern Nevada
Weekly Newspapers, Daily News

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Aug. 12, 2014
InsideNorthernNevada.com

Inside Northern Nevada
Weekly Newspapers, Daily News

Pershing County Community Calendar

Sponsoring the 2015 Radon Poster Contest. Entries are due October 31, 2014. There are five topics to choose from and the top five winners will receive cash prizes. For entry forms and information contact the Lovelock Cooperative Extension office at 775-273-2623 or go on line to www.radonnv.com.

Aug. 12, 2014
InsideNorthernNevada.com

Inside Northern Nevada
Weekly Newspapers, Daily News

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Aug. 11, 2014
ThisIsReno.com

This Is RENO

NEWS OPINION EVENTS ENTERTAINMENT SPORTS ARCHIVES AUGUST 12, 2014

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August 11, 2014 by ThisIsReno Leave a Comment

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Aug. 15, 2014
InsideNorthernNevada.com

Inside Northern Nevada
Weekly Newspapers, Daily News

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Aug. 12, 2014
unr.edu/nevada-today

University of Nevada, Reno

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2014 Nevada Radon Poster Contest Opens to Students

From the University of Nevada

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From app • By University of Nevada Cooperative Extension

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Aug. 12, 2014
LakeTahoeNews.net

Lake Tahoe News

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Radon Education Program Numbers

UNCE Radon Program Numbers	prior to Sep 07	FY 08	FY 09	FY 10	FY 11	FY 12	FY 13	FY14	Jul - Sep 14	Total to date
Radon phone and email inquiries		2,136	2,688	1,911	2,209	1,946	3,148	1,893	83	16,014
Direct contacts promoting radon testing and mitigation		3,259	14,000	10,428	7,862	7,768	8,416	9,205	1,216	62,154
Newspaper/magazine articles	1	99	61	85	68	122	105	44	4	589
Radon publications/info distributed		2,798	67,071	59,378	58,545	99,057	100,905	126,754	19,672	534,180
Number of radon exhibits		51	106	186	148	183	77	59	2	812
Number of TV reports		17	9	57	37	6	4	6		136
Number of TV PSAs						592	310	508		1,410
Number of radio PSAs		6	6	26	6	195	3,755	5,926		9,920
Website pages of NV Radon information			45	113	253	113	100	90	12	726
Eventbrite page views								355	277	632
Website page hits			29,466	59,288	75,920	85,617	152,793	198,030	43,949	645,063
Test kits distributed	971	2,469	8,208	5,321	4,829	3,993	4,929	5,219	293	36,232
Homes tested-Short-Term*	1,574	1,316	4,062	2,590	2,339	2,025	2,043	2,436	130	18,515
Homes tested-Long Term***	41	26	56	30	30	26	29	26	5	269
School buildings tested	6	1	16	10		15	1	1		50
School buildings mitigated	1	1	2	7			4	1		16
Homes mitigated	4	20	75	92	128	132	112	112	11	686
Homes with repaired mitigation system or fan replacements				1	1	1	0	1		4
Large buildings tested		27		31		152	16	5		231
Large buildings mitigated			2			1	0	0		3
Homes tested in Real Estate transaction	1	27	68	84	168	259	102	366	28	1,103
Homes built with RRNC features		7	36	30	18	22	26	23		162
Number of certified Mitigators		3	2	-1			-2	1		3
Number of Builders using RRNC					5	3	1	1		10
No. of Realtors promoting Radon testing						26	7	3	31	67

Nevada Radon Education Program's Impact Data as of 9-30-14

County	% Radon Potential of Usable Test Results*						% kits distributed/used**			% Homes tested*			% Mitigations			# Real Estate	# RRNC
	# Valid tests*	# Homes < 4 pCi/l	# Homes ≥ 4 pCi/l	% Radon Potential	Average radon level pCi/l	Maximum 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		
Carson City	1,308	793	515	39.4%	4.36	100.5	2,876	1,713	59.6%	21,122	1,494	7.1%	501	60	12.0%	85	15
Churchill	347	301	46	13.3%	2.64	16.4	814	424	52.1%	9,221	403	4.4%	44	9	20.5%	10	3
Clark	2,092	1,901	191	9.1%	1.83	66.0	5,789	2,348	40.6%	706,037	2,871	0.4%	188	45	23.9%	76	12
Douglas	3,213	1,947	1,266	39.4%	5.00	117.9	7,132	4,620	64.8%	19,226	3,687	19.2%	1,212	219	18.1%	256	57
Elko	286	181	105	36.7%	4.83	57.3	713	311	43.6%	17,512	348	2.0%	100	9	9.0%	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%		
Humboldt	133	94	39	29.3%	3.84	26.4	340	199	58.5%	6,256	162	2.6%	38	6	15.8%	4	1
Lander	71	55	16	22.5%	3.69	24.9	167	98	58.7%	1,980	98	4.9%	16	2	12.5%	9	1
Lincoln	52	35	17	32.7%	6.44	121.0	131	71	54.2%	1,976	72	3.6%	17		0%	1	
Lyon	712	509	203	28.5%	3.60	135	1,370	781	57.0%	18,548	842	4.5%	190	26	13.7%	26	11
Mineral	75	49	26	34.7%	4.33	23.5	160	81	50.6%	2,249	83	3.7%	26	2	7.7%	4	
Nye	131	119	12	9.2%	1.81	9.2	358	174	48.6%	18,274	171	0.9%	11		0%	8	1
Pershing	113	54	59	52.2%	6.56	25.5	302	170	56.3%	2,062	138	6.7%	59	6	10.2%	3	
Storey	19	12	7	36.8%	3.03	7.8	88	34	38.6%	1,839	31	1.7%	7		0%		
Washoe	6,653	5,243	1,410	21.2%	3.28	155.6	15,261	7,856	51.5%	161,892	8,104	5.0%	1,349	300	22.2%	606	59
White Pine	194	134	60	30.9%	3.93	32.8	505	238	47.1%	3,479	226	6.5%	57	2	3.5%	5	1
Unknown	4	3	1	25%	2.78	5.3	63	13	20.6%		15		1		0%	2	
Total	15,432	11,451	3,981	25.8%	3.61	155.6	36,232	19,164	52.9%	992,896	18,784	1.89%	3,824	686	17.9%	1103	162

*# 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 September 30, 2014

Nevada counties	Carson City		Churchill		Clark		Douglas		Elko		Esmeralda	
Total number of usable tests per county	1,308		347		2,092		3,213		286		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	793	515	301	46	1,901	191	1,947	1,266	181	105	3	0
% of homes tested that have elevated radon levels	39.37%		13.26%		9.13%		39.40%		36.71%		sample size too small	

Nevada counties	Eureka		Humboldt		Lander		Lincoln		Lyon		Mineral	
Total number of usable tests per county	26		133		71		52		712		75	
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	94	39	55	16	35	17	509	203	49	26
% of homes tested that have elevated radon levels	30.77%		29.32%		22.54%		32.69%		28.51%		34.67%	

Nevada counties	Nye		Pershing		Storey		Washoe		White Pine		TOTALS	
Total number of usable tests per county	131		113		19		6,653		194		15,432	
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	119	12	54	59	12	7	5,243	1,410	134	60	11,451	3,981
% of homes tested that have elevated radon levels	9.16%		52.21%		36.84%		21.19%		30.93%		25.80%	

*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 September 30, 2014

Nevada counties	Carson City	Churchill	Clark	Douglas	Elko	Humboldt	Lincoln	Lyon	Nye	Pershing	Washoe	White Pine	TOTALS
Total number of usable tests per county	46	5	35	110	10	3	1	30	1	3	194	9	447
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	25 21	5 0	30 5	78 32	7 3	2 1	0 1	23 7	0 1	2 1	146 48	7 2	325 122
% of homes tested that have high radon levels	45.7%	0%	14.3%	29.1%	30%	33%	100%	23%	100%	33%	24.7%	22%	27.29%

**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

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	5,768	2,171	37.64%
Zone 2	Churchill, Elko, Esmeralda, Humboldt, Nye, Storey, Washoe	7,572	1,619	21.38%
Zone 3	Clark	2,092	191	9.13%
Statewide statistics		15,432	3,981	25.80%

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	199	64	32.16%
Zone 2	Churchill, Elko, Esmeralda, Humboldt, Nye, Storey, Washoe	213	53	24.88%
Zone 3	Clark	35	5	14.29%
Statewide statistics		447	122	27.29%



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