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The radon banner stretches across Highway 395 in Gardnerville.

Douglas County a radon hot spot

Staff Reports

With 40 percent of Douglas County homes tested for radon, more than 70 percent in Stateline had elevated levels of the tasteless, odorless gas, that is the leading cause of lung cancer among non-smokers.

In Glenbrook, 63 percent of homes tested exceeded the EPA Action Level of 4 picoCuries per liter of air. In Zephyr Cove the rate was 58 percent.

Carson Valley homes posted some high percentages with 42 percent of homes in Gardnerville and 24 percent of homes in Minden showing elevated radon levels.

While homes with higher radon numbers tend to be nearer to the Sierra, where radon is creat-

DETAILS

What: Radon program
When: 6 p.m. Jan. 9
Where: CVIC Hall in Minden
Info: www.radonnv.com

ed by decaying uranium in decomposed granite, there's no way to predict which home will test above the limit.

That's why during January, which is National Radon Action Month, the Nevada Radon Education Program of University of Nevada Cooperative Extension will offer two radon programs in Douglas County. The first program is 6 p.m. Monday, at the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency, 128 Market St., in Stateline. Another is offered 6 p.m. Jan. 9 at the CVIC Hall, 1604 Esmeralda Ave.,

in Minden.

Both sites will have information about the radon health risk, and how to test for and fix radon problems. A certified radon mitigator will also present information on radon mitigation and free radon test kits will be offered.

Radon is a naturally occurring, radioactive gas that emanates from the rock and soil. It can accumulate in buildings and can cause lung cancer. Every year, radon-induced lung cancer kills more people than secondhand smoke, drunk driving, falls in the home, drowning or home fires. The Environmental Protection Agency estimates 21,000 Americans die each year from lung cancer caused by indoor radon exposure.

Radon-induced lung cancer is highly preventable. A simple

three-day test can determine if a house has a radon problem and winter is an ideal time to test a home for radon. When a home is closed up during cooler weather months, radon concentrations typically increase.

That is why UNCE, EPA and the Nevada State Health Division urge all Nevadans to get their homes tested for radon. Free radon test kits are available to Douglas County residents throughout the year at the Douglas County extension office, 1329 Waterloo in Gardnerville, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Call 775-782-9960 for more information.

For more information, visit the Nevada Radon Education Program website, www.RadonNV.com