



- Kurt Hildebrand

Welcome to Gardnerville, test for radon

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It's an odorless, tasteless gas that rises naturally from the soil and lurks in the quiet corners of many Douglas County homes.

It's also the leading cause of lung cancer among nonsmokers and the second leading cause of lung cancer among smokers.

The Environmental Protection Agency estimates that 21,000 people die each year from exposure to radon gas in their home.

A meeting for residents to share information about testing for radon and reducing levels that are above the safe minimums will be held 6:30 p.m. Tuesday at the CVIC Hall in Minden.

Members of the Cooperative Extension made a presentation to Douglas County commissioners on Monday, where the county declared January Radon Action Month.

Nevada Radon Education Program Director Susan Howe said Lake Tahoe is a hotspot for the gas, but that it has been detected in homes throughout the county.

Radon detection kits are available free from the Cooperative Extension Office in Gardnerville.

Douglas residents have been returning most of the 2,400 kits that have been distributed to determine if their homes have the gas. A kit would cost \$30 at a retail store, she said.

For the first time a contest is being conducted to help provide mitigation for the gas.

The "Test Your Home for Radon and Win Contest" will provide two Carson City, Douglas or Washoe county homeowners with a \$1,500 credit towards the installation of a radon mitigation system.

"Radon test results collected since 1989 show that the potential for having elevated radon levels in Carson City, Douglas and Washoe county homes is high," said Howe. "Of the 2,076-plus homes tested in Douglas County, 41 percent had elevated radon levels."

Gardnerville certified radon mitigator Derrick Carpenter of Dependable Home Solutions has volunteered to do the work.

Preliminary winners will be notified by mail by March 21 with a notification letter outlining contest terms and conditions. In addition, a second, radon test will be required to finalize the process. Complete contest details can be seen on the Radon in Nevada website at www.RadonNV.com.

Final winners will be announced by April 30, with the work taking place by May 31.

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