

Douglas a hot spot for radon

Staff Reports

Douglas County has one of the highest percentage of homes testing above the minimum environmental standards for radon in the state.

Of the 3,540 radon tests conducted in Douglas County, 1,410 have turned up higher than the minimum environmental standard.

Lake Tahoe is home to the highest percentage of homes with more than the Environmental Protection Agency's action level of 4 picocuries of radon per liter of air.

According to the state, 70.5 percent of the homes tested at Stateline, 59 percent of the homes in Zephyr Cove and 58 percent of the homes tested in Glenbrook exceed levels.

Free radon test kits are available Dec. 1 through Feb. 29 at University of Nevada Cooperative Extension offices and partner locations statewide.

Radon, a naturally occurring radioactive gas, comes from the ground and can enter homes and accumulate to elevated concentrations. At elevated concentrations, the odorless, colorless gas can raise the risk of lung cancer for unsuspecting homeowners.

Lung cancer kills more individuals than any other cancer. The EPA estimates 21,000 Americans die each year from radon-caused lung cancer, killing more people than secondhand smoke, drunk driving, falls in the home, drowning or house fires. Once diagnosed with lung cancer, there is only a 15 percent five-year survival rate.

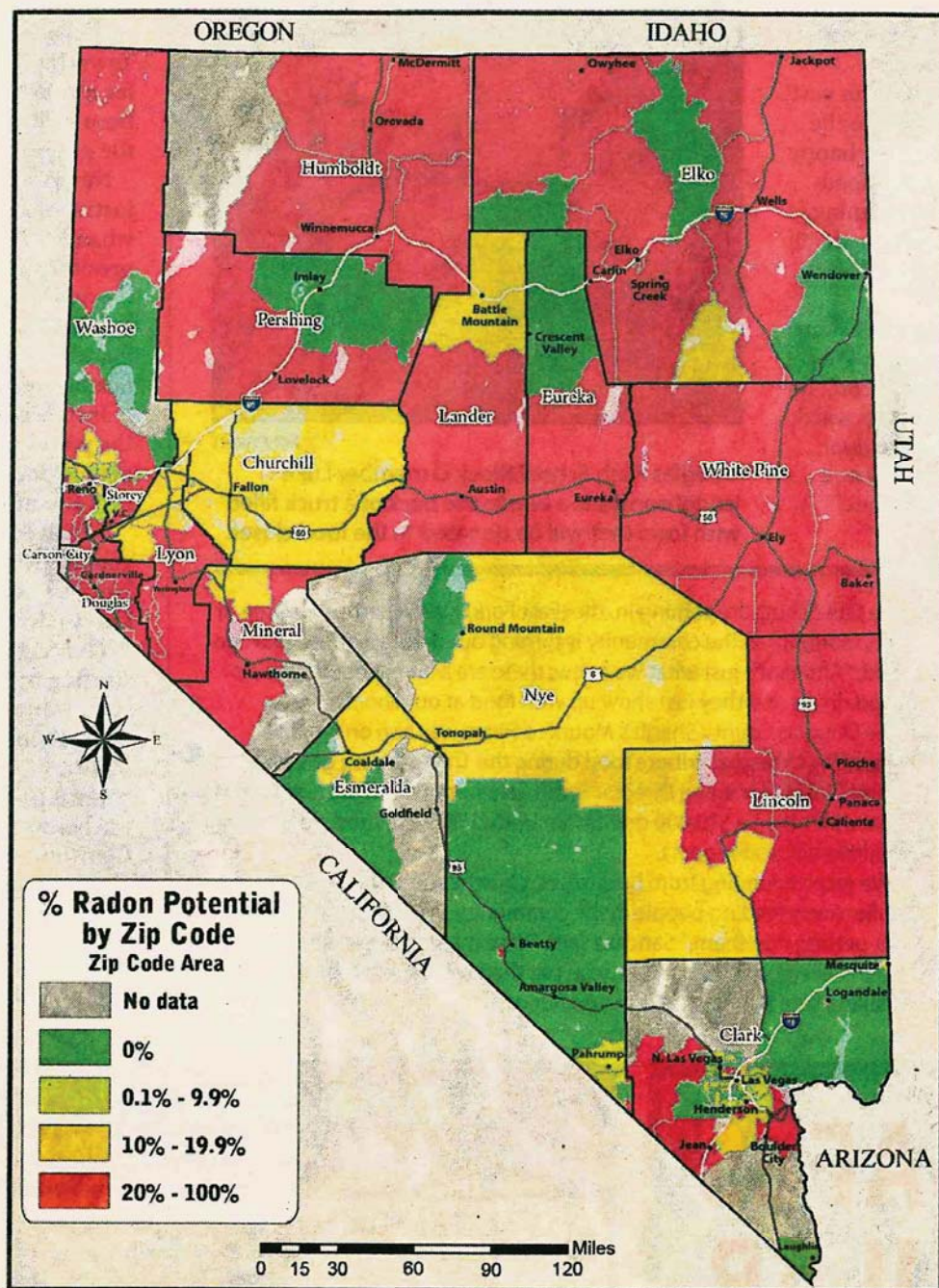
In Nevada, one in four homes tested found radon concentrations at or above the EPA action level.

According to experts, living in a home with radon

concentrations at the action level poses a similar risk of developing lung cancer as smoking about half a pack of cigarettes a day.

Cooperative Extension, the EPA and the Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health urge

Nevada Statewide Radon Potential by Zip Code



**Note: Results are based on independently tested homes from 1989 to June 30, 2015, 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 tested level of the home.

all Nevadans to test their homes for radon. For more information or a list of free kit locations, visit the Nevada Radon Education Program website at www.RadonNV.com, or call the Radon Hotline at 888-723-6610.

The Nevada Radon

Education Program is a program of University of Nevada Cooperative Extension and is funded by the EPA and the Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health. Since 2008, more than 21,000 homes have been tested in Nevada.