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NEVADA STATE HEALTH DIVISION NEWS RELEASE

Nevada's Radon Education Program Ranked #1 in the Nation

Carson City – The Nevada Radon Education Program, a partnership between the Nevada State Health Division, the University of Nevada Cooperative Extension and the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) was number one nationwide for conducting radon outreach and education activities during Radon Action Month. Radon is an odorless tasteless radioactive gas that is the number one cause of lung cancer for non-smokers. EPA begins tallying radon education and outreach activities each September, culminating in January with Radon Action Month because winter is the best time to test homes for radon.

The Nevada State Health Division has provided radon information to citizens for many years but has recently stepped up the effort to become one of the nation's premier programs. Radiation Control Supervisor Eric Matus said, "Three years ago we secured additional grant funding from EPA and contracted with the University of Nevada Cooperative Extension; that's when things really took off. The Nevada Radon Education Program was formed to capitalize on the Cooperative Extension's network of outreach centers, especially in rural counties. It's been a very good match, resulting in a record number of homes tested."

In addition to public seminars, home shows, and radio spots, some of the innovative new outreach activities included door hangers, movie theater ads, and casino billboards, resulting in Nevada's most successful campaign ever.

EPA says radon exposure in the home is responsible for 21,000 deaths each year. It is formed by the breakdown of uranium in rock, especially granite. Radon gas can be present anywhere in the state and in any type of home. It can be measured using inexpensive do-it-yourself test kits. Matus said, "The important message is that radon gas is a preventable health risk and the only way to know is to test."

For more information visit the Nevada Radon Education Program website at www.unce.unr.edu/radon or call 1-888-RADON10.

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