

**NEDERLAND, COLORADO**

**OFFICE OF THE MAYOR**

**Town of Nederland Mayor's Proclamation In Support of  
Radon Action Month in Nederland, Colorado**

**WHEREAS**, radon is an invisible, odorless, radioactive gas that threatens the health of our citizens and their families; and

**WHEREAS**, radon is likely the leading environmental cause of cancer mortality in the U.S. and the 7<sup>th</sup> leading cause of cancer mortality overall; and

**WHEREAS**, the Rocky Mountain Region, wherein Boulder County lies, has been ranked Zone 1, an area with the highest radon potential possible by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; and

**WHEREAS**, local residential radon data has shown 54% of the Boulder County homes tested as being at or above the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Radon Action Level of 4.0 pCi/L (picocuries per liter of air); and

**WHEREAS**, any home in Nederland, Colorado may have elevated levels of radon (even if homes in the same neighborhood do not); and

**WHEREAS**, testing for radon is simple and inexpensive; and

**WHEREAS**, identified radon problems can be fixed; and

**WHEREAS**, Boulder County Public Health, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the American Lung Association are supporting efforts to encourage Americans to test their homes for radon, have elevated levels of radon reduced, and have new homes built with radon-resistant features.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, Joe Gierlach, Mayor of Nederland, Colorado** do hereby proclaim:

January 1-31, 2013  
Official Radon Action Month  
In Nederland, Colorado

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 15 day of JAN, in the year 2013

  
(Signature)





# Public Health

Radon Gas Program

December 21, 2012

The Honorable Joe Gierlach  
Town of Nederland Mayor  
Town of Nederland  
P.O. Box 396  
Nederland, CO 80466

Dear Mayor Gierlach:

I am writing to request you proclaim the month of January as Radon Action Month in Nederland, Colorado. Your proclamation would be in conjunction with other cities and states around the country who, in partnership with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, are taking the lead in observing National Radon Action Month.

In Boulder County, radon is present at elevated levels in about 54% of homes.

One in 15 homes across the United States has elevated radon levels. With more than 20,000 deaths each year, radon exposure is the second leading cause of lung cancer deaths in the United States and the number one cause among non-smokers. In light of these concerns, the EPA has designated January as National Radon Action Month. During National Radon Action Month, Boulder County Public Health will strengthen our efforts to educate the public about the dangers of radon and what can be done to minimize health risk from exposure to elevated levels of indoor radon.

I have enclosed a fact sheet that will give you more information about the dangers of exposure to indoor radon. I have also taken the liberty of drafting a sample proclamation for your consideration. We would be truly honored to have your support. Please contact me if you require any additional information. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Susan Martino, MLA  
Environmental Health Specialist II  
Boulder County Public Health  
303-441-1176  
[smartino@bouldercounty.org](mailto:smartino@bouldercounty.org)



# JANUARY IS NATIONAL RADON ACTION MONTH



## Basic Radon Facts

### Radon is a cancer-causing, radioactive gas.

Radon is a naturally occurring radioactive gas released in rock, soil, and water from the natural decay of uranium. While levels in outdoor air pose a relatively low threat to human health, radon can accumulate to dangerous levels inside buildings. You can't see, smell, or taste it, but an elevated radon level in your home may be affecting the health of your family.

Exposure to radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer in the United States and the number one cause among non-smokers. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency estimates that radon causes more than 20,000 lung cancer deaths in the country each year. Only smoking causes more lung cancer deaths. If you smoke and your home has radon, your risk of lung cancer can be higher.



Radon has been found in elevated levels in homes in every state. No area of the country is free from risk. Indeed, two homes right next to each other can have vastly different radon levels. Just because your neighbor's house does not have an elevated level of radon does not mean that your house will have a low radon level. The only way to know if your home is under the EPA action level of 4 pCi/L is to test. High levels of radon in homes usually come from the surrounding soil. Radon gas enters through cracks and openings—such as sump pump lids and plumbing features—on the lower levels of your home. Hot spots include basements, first-floor rooms, and garages, but radon can be found anywhere in your house.

### You should test for radon.

The U.S. Surgeon General recommends that all homes in the U.S. be tested for radon. Testing your home for radon is easy to do. If your home has a radon problem, you can take steps to fix it to protect yourself and your family.

## How to Obtain Radon Test Kits

To obtain an easy-to-use radon test kit, you can:

- Contact Boulder County Public Health at (303) 441-1564 for more information about obtaining low-cost test kits from CSU Cooperative Extension/Boulder County Extension or the Center For Resource Conservation in Boulder.
- Purchase a test kit from your local home improvement or hardware store. Many kits are priced under \$25.00.
- To purchase a long-term test kit, visit the Kansas State University National Radon Program at [www.sosradon.org](http://www.sosradon.org).

You can find out if your home has an elevated radon level by conducting a simple test. It's as easy as opening a package, placing a radon detector in a designated area, and, after a set number of days, sending the detector back to a lab for analysis. The lab will then inform you of your radon test results.

Radon test kits are available at your local home improvement or hardware store, or in some cases from your state radon office. You can also order them from the Kansas State University National Radon Program ([www.sosradon.org](http://www.sosradon.org)) or radon testing companies. Another option is to hire



## Basic Radon Facts (continued)

a qualified tester to do a radon test for you. Contact your state radon office about obtaining a list of qualified testers. Information about testing your home for radon and RADON.

Radon is measured in picocuries per liter of air (pCi/L), a measurement of radioactivity. EPA and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend that homes with radon levels at 4 pCi/L or higher should be fixed. EPA also recommends that Americans consider fixing their homes for radon levels between 2 pCi/L and 4 pCi/L. Based on a national residential radon survey completed in 1991, the average indoor radon level is about 1.3 pCi/L in the United States. The average outdoor level is about 0.4 pCi/L.



### You can fix a radon problem.

The cost of making repairs to reduce the radon level depends on several factors, including how your home was built. Most homes can be fixed for about the same cost as other common home repairs, like painting or having a new hot water heater installed. The average cost for a contractor to mitigate radon levels in a home is about \$1,200, although costs can range from \$800 to approximately \$2,500. Visit [www.BoulderCountyRadon.org](http://www.BoulderCountyRadon.org) or call your state radon office to locate radon mitigators in your area if you find an elevated radon level in your home.

### New homes can be built with radon-resistant features.

Radon-resistant construction methods can be effective in reducing radon entry. When used properly, these simple and cost-effective techniques can help reduce the accumulation of radon gas in homes.

Every new home should be tested after occupancy, even if it was built using radon-resistant construction methods. If radon levels at or above EPA's action level of 4 pCi/L are detected, it is easier and less expensive to reduce radon levels in homes that have been built with radon-resistant construction techniques.

### For more information:

Contact: Susan Martino, (303) 441-1176, [smartino@bouldercounty.org](mailto:smartino@bouldercounty.org)

Patty Dooley-Strappelli, (303)441-1560, [pdooley-strappelli@bouldercounty.org](mailto:pdooley-strappelli@bouldercounty.org)

Radon Information Website: [www.BoulderCountyRadon.org](http://www.BoulderCountyRadon.org)

*Radon presents a serious health risk, but it can be controlled easily and cost-effectively. Take action today. Encourage your friends and family members to do the same!*

