



Colorado Department  
of Public Health  
and Environment

# NEWS RELEASE

Office of Communications  
Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

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## **New data reveals all of Colorado at high risk for radon**

DENVER — Twelve Colorado counties previously considered to be at moderate risk for radon exposure have been upgraded to the high-risk category. The change means all 64 Colorado counties are categorized as Zone I for radon, or high-risk by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. Counties in Zone I have an estimated indoor radon average greater than four picocuries per liter (pCi/L), the action level where the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency recommend homeowners install mitigation equipment.

The 12 affected counties are: Alamosa, Archuleta, Conejos, Costilla, Eagle, Hinsdale, La Plata, Mineral, Rio Grande, Routt, Saguache and San Juan. Although the designation does not mean that every home in the county will have radon above the action level, state officials strongly encourage all Colorado residents to test their homes for radon and to consider installing mitigation systems if radon levels exceed four pCi/L.

“We’ve always known radon was a problem in Colorado,” said Chrystine Kelley, manager of the radon program at the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. “But this new data confirms a need for heightened awareness, more testing and a more proactive mindset, such as building new homes with radon-resistant construction from the start.”

A colorless, odorless radioactive gas, radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer in the United States. Radon, which occurs naturally from the decay of uranium in soil, is abundant in Colorado. The only way to know if your household is being exposed to radon is to test. Test

kits are inexpensive and the tests are easy to perform. For additional information, visit [www.coloradoradon.info](http://www.coloradoradon.info).

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**Editor's Note:** *For a local perspective on the 12 counties, see contact information below.*

- Alamosa County Public Health Department: 719-589-6639
- Archuleta County (San Juan Basin Health Department): 970-247-9126
- Conejos County Public Health and Nursing Service: 719-274-4307
- Costilla County Public Health Agency: 719-672-3456
- Eagle County Public Health Agency: 970-328-8819
- Hinsdale County Public Health Agency: 970-944-0321
- La Plata County (San Juan Basin Health Department): 970-247-9126
- Mineral County Public Health Agency: 719-658-2416
- Rio Grande County Public Health Agency: 719-657-3352
- Routt County Public Health Agency: 970-879-5310
- Saguache County Public Health Agency: 719-655-2533
- San Juan County Public Health Service: 970-387-0242