

INDUSTRY EXPERTS GATHER IN THE MILE HIGH CITY FOR THE 2011 NATIONAL HEALTHY HOMES CONFERENCE

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WASHINGTON, DC – Eight million U.S. homes have radon levels above EPA’s recommended guidelines; an estimated 38 million homes still contain lead-based paint; second hand smoke results in thousands of lung cancer deaths among non-smokers every year and nearly 25 million Americans have asthma-- and the rate is steadily rising. From plumbing problems to electrical hazards to mold, lead and pest infestations, poor housing conditions result in chronic diseases like asthma, cancer and cardiovascular health problems for millions of U.S. families.

Since we now spend 90 percent of our time indoors – 65 percent of that time in our homes – the need for a comprehensive forum focused on home-related health and safety dangers is clear. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has answered the call and is bringing together thought leaders in public health, safety, housing, and environmental health at the 2011 National Healthy Homes Conference in Denver, Colorado June 20-23.

Under the theme, Leading the Nation to Healthy Homes, Families and Communities, the conference will explore health and safety problems in the home, including the disproportionate impact of these issues have on vulnerable populations, such as seniors, children, people with disabilities and communities of color.

The roster of conference keynote speakers reads as a virtual Who’s Who and includes:

- The Honorable Ron Sims, Deputy Secretary, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
- The Honorable Kathleen Sebelius, Secretary, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
- Gary A. Officer, President and CEO, Rebuilding Together
- Mike Holmes, Host, *Holmes on Homes*, HGTV
- Steve Thomas, Host, *Renovation Nation*, Planet Green
- Carlos Dora, MD, World Health Organization
- Jonathan Reckford, CEO, Habitat for Humanity, Intl.
- Dr. Georges Benjamin, Executive Director, American Public Health Association
- Dr. Leonard Weather, President, National Medical Association
- Nate Kredich, VP, Residential Market Development, U.S. Green Building Council

“The 2011 National Healthy Homes Conference underscores our commitment to making safe and healthy housing a reality,” said Ron Sims, Deputy Secretary, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. “This summer we have invited professionals representing a wide spectrum of disciplines to exchange information and formulate strategies that will keep health and safety in the home a national priority.”

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In addition to four morning plenary sessions, subject matter experts from across the country will lead more than 150 educational sessions on new techniques, emerging research, best practices and innovations in architecture, housing, green technology and public health. Sessions will include such topics as:

- How the Environment Outside our Homes Can Promote Healthy Active Lifestyles
- The Effect of the Built Environment on Community Health
- Smoke-Free Housing: Changing the Landscape of America
- The Connection: Bringing Healthy Homes and Energy Efficiency Together
- Protecting the Community from Radon Exposure
- Getting the Biggest Bang from Your Healthy Homes Buck
- What is a Green and Healthy Home?
- Is it Green or Just Part of the Hype?
- Affordable Can be Healthy Too

About the 2011 National Healthy Homes Conference

The National Healthy Homes Conference is the housing industry's most comprehensive, progressive and educational forum on the issue of healthy, safe and sustainable homes. The conference is a federally-sponsored event, bringing together a wide range of health, housing and environmental professionals to work toward making housing healthy, safe and environmentally sustainable.

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