



Nevada State Contractors Board  
***NEWS RELEASE***

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***FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE***

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**Unlicensed Masonry Contractor Origenes Arrested**

Vicente Sepe Origenes, 46, (dba VIP Interlocking Pavers) was arrested in Carson City on April 11, 2006, by the Carson City Sheriff's Office. The Contractors Board Reno Special Investigations Unit assisted in the investigation leading up to Origenes' apprehension.

Origenes was arrested on a Nevada State Contractors Board warrant issued by the East Fork Justice Court of Douglas County on a *felony charge of diversion of funds*. Origenes had entered into a \$94,000 contract to install pavers at a residence in Gardnerville. He accepted a \$10,000 deposit and then failed to perform the job or provide materials.

The Contractor Interagency Task Force is hard at work tracking offenders and informing the public of their rights and responsibilities. The task force members include: the Reno Police Department, Carson City Sheriff's Office, Nevada Department of Agriculture, Nevada Chapter of the Associated General Contractors, Washoe County Building Department, OSHA, the Nevada State Contractors Board, City of Reno, City of Sparks, Silver State Masonry, Builders Association of Western Nevada, United

-- more --

Construction Co., the Washoe County Sheriff's Office, Washoe County, Moana Nursery, State of Nevada Attorney General's Office, Washoe County Roads and Basalite Concrete Products.

It against the law to contract without a license in the state of Nevada. First offense is a misdemeanor, second offense a gross misdemeanor and the third offense is a Class E felony.

Also, homeowners who use the services of an unlicensed contractor are not eligible for recovery of their damages through the Residential Recovery Fund. The NSCB urges the public to hire only licensed contractors in good standing with the Board. Consumers can verify contractors' licenses and obtain helpful tips for working with contractors by calling (775) 688-1141 in Northern Nevada, or (702) 486-1100 in Southern Nevada. Licenses can be verified 24 hours a day by logging on to [www.nscb.state.nv.us](http://www.nscb.state.nv.us).

**The NSCB urges consumers to follow these simple tips when dealing with a contractor:**

- **Hire only licensed contractors. Ask to see the license.**
- **Don't rush into decisions or hire without checking out potential contractors.**
- **Be especially wary when approached by someone offering home improvements door-to door.**
- **Verify the contractor's licensed by checking online at [www.nscb.state.nv.us](http://www.nscb.state.nv.us) or via automated phone service at (702) 486-1100 (Southern Nevada), or (775) 688-1141 (Northern Nevada).**
- **Ensure the contractor is properly licensed for the work you want done on your home.**
- **Limit the amount of your down payment or deposit to 10 percent of the total contract.**
- **Don't pay cash without obtaining signed receipts, and don't let the payments get ahead of the work.**

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