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Three Unlicensed Contractors Add To Top 10 List in Northern Nevada

Lenny
Cook



Lenny Cook (aka Selimoa Finau, Tom Cook and Tom Tuipulotu); Tuihalangie Finau (aka Tui), and Peni Tuipulotu have been added to the Nevada State Contractors Board's Ten Most Wanted.

Cook is facing two felony counts of *diversion of funds* from warrants issued by the Reno Justice Court. Finau is facing his third

Tui
Finau



felony offense of *engaging or submitting a bid without a license*. A warrant has been issued on him by the Reno Justice Court. Tuipulotu is charged with two misdemeanor counts of *engaging or submitting a bid without a license and failure to pay a fine*. He has a warrant issued on

Peni
Tuipulotu



him by the Reno Justice Court.

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, 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 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.

To assist in prosecuting illegal contracting, the Nevada State Contractors Board has launched an online "Ten Most Wanted." Individuals listed on the Ten Most Wanted website pages are those who have outstanding arrest warrants for unlicensed contracting activity. Contractors and members of the public can go online at www.nscb.state.nv.us and click "Ten Most Wanted" on the quick-link menu to review suspect's profiles. The website includes contact numbers to provide information about the individuals profiled.

Homeowners who use the services of a revoked or suspended 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.

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 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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