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## <u>NSCB Investigators Cite Seven Alleged</u> <u>Unlicensed Contractors In Northern Nevada Sting Operation</u>

Nevada State Contractors Board investigators conducted sting operations recently throughout the Reno area in which seven alleged unlicensed contractors were cited for *contracting without a license*.

Those who received citations include:

Lester Thrush, dba The House Doctor, painting and landscaping; Bruce Lynd, dba Majestic Painting Co., painting; Barry O'Dea, dba B&T Custom Painting, painting, prior conviction for contracting without a license; Herendira Hernandez Vega, dba AAA Landscape & Design, landscaping, prior citations for contracting without a license; Eduardo Echeverria, painting; Ruben Mena, advertising without a license, drywall installation; and Vilantoni Finau, dba Pevine Concrete Co., concrete.

Contracting without a license in Nevada is a misdemeanor for the first offense, a gross misdemeanor for the second offense and a Class E felony for the third offense.

Homeowners should not use unlicensed contractors because their work is generally poor quality, they are often uninsured and may not maintain workman's compensation coverage for their employees, and the homeowner may be liable for all injuries to workers.

Homeowners who use unlicensed contractors are not eligible for the Residential Recovery Fund, and by law their contracts are null and void.

Consumers can check whether a contractor is licensed by calling: (702) 486-1100 in Southern Nevada, or (775) 688-1141 in Northern Nevada. License checks can also be conducted on the NSCB website at: <u>www.nscb.state.nv.us</u>

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