



NSCB News Release



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Contractors Board Cautions Homeowners of Scams after Heavy Rain and Wind

HENDERSON, Nev. – The Nevada State Contractors Board cautions Southern Nevada homeowners whose property was damaged as a result of this weekend’s heavy rain and wind of unlicensed contractors conducting door-to-door solicitations to repair leaky roofs, interior water damage, fallen fences, and other noticeable damages. Unlicensed contractors have been known to use high pressured sales tactics, demands for cash payment, and ‘too good to be true’ prices.

It is a criminal offense to contract without a license in the State of Nevada and can result in misdemeanor or felony charges. Unlicensed contractors often do not carry workman’s compensation insurance, have not passed trade or law exams, and homeowners who contract with an unlicensed contractor are not eligible for the Residential Recovery Fund should workmanship issues arise.

“Significant weather events pose the ideal opportunity for unscrupulous contractors to prey on homeowners in need of an emergency repair to their home,” explained Margi A. Grein, NSCB Executive Officer. “We realize the urgency of a homeowner’s situation and would encourage that they hire a licensed contractor for any repairs to ensure they receive the full protections of the Board.”

Homeowners should pay attention to the license classifications held of each contractor when performing a search on the Board’s website to ensure the contractor is licensed for the appropriate work to be performed, i.e., a contractor licensed as a landscaper should not be submitting a bid for roofing repairs. Each licensed contractor’s information is listed on the Board’s website, which can be found following the steps below. Homeowners who come into contact with individuals believed to be unlicensed contractors are encouraged to report all information received to the NSCB Unlicensed Contractor Hotline at: (702) 486-1160.

Tips for Hiring a Licensed Contractor

1. Always hire a licensed contractor.
2. Ask for the contractor's license number and verify it on NSCB's website: www.nscb.nv.gov or by calling NSCB's office at (702) 486-1100 or (775) 688-1141.
3. Obtain at least three bids prior to making your decision.
4. Ask for references from each contractor and follow up with them to verify the quality and timeliness of the work previously performed for those customers.
5. Make sure your contract is as detailed as possible, including type/color of materials, payment schedules, etc.
6. Never sign a contract until you understand all the terms and agreements.
7. Always obtain a receipt when payment is made. It is advised never to pay in cash – only check or credit card.
8. Request lien releases after each phase of the project is complete.
9. Don't let the payments get ahead of the work.
10. Report any suspicious activities to the Contractors Board at (702) 486-1160.

Filing a Construction Complaint with the Board

Homeowners who are experiencing damages to their home, which are believed to be the result of substandard work from a licensed contractor, within a four-year period of the work being performed may file a claim with NSCB by filling out the form online at:

<http://www.nscb.nv.gov/pdfs/Forms/Consumer%20Info%20Form%20and%20Instructions.pdf>.

NSCB investigates all complaints, performing site visits, interviews with the homeowner and contractor, and determines if the evidence warrants correction by the contractor. Cases are generally closed within 90 days of receipt of the complaint.

Residential Recovery Fund

The Residential Recovery Fund was established by the Nevada Legislature in 1999. It offers protection to Nevada owners of single-family residences who conduct business with licensed contractors for the performance of any construction, remodeling, repair or improvement. An owner must occupy the residence to qualify. An applicant's eligibility to receive funds is determined after an investigation is conducted by NSCB. The Fund was designed to assist in providing relief to homeowners, when they have been damaged by licensed contractors.

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