



NSCB News Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 2, 2015

CONTACT: Jennifer Turner
Public Information Officer
(702) 486-1111

Scott Smith
Public Information Specialist
(702) 486-1165

18 SUSPECTED UNLICENSED CONTRACTORS BUSTED

HENDERSON and SPARKS, Nev. – The Nevada State Contractors Board cited 18 suspected unlicensed contractors during sting operations in Sparks on September 25 and Henderson on September 29. Investigators identified suspects through complaints to the Contractors Board and by examining advertisements on Craig’s List and other bulletin board services.

In Henderson, undercover investigators issued citations to 12 suspects. Seven were ordered to appear in court to answer charges of contracting without a license and advertising construction services without a contractor’s license. Five were ticketed for unlicensed advertising. Among these, Salvador Ulloa-Gutierrez fled the scene, and two others failed to show up for their meeting at the sting house. The Board has filed affidavits with the district attorney’s office to obtain warrants for their arrest on advertising charges.

In Sparks, three suspects were cited both for allegedly contracting without a contractor’s license, a violation of Nevada Revised Statutes Chapter 624.700, and allegedly advertising without a contractor’s license (NRS 624.720). One was cited for contracting without a license, and two were charged with illegal advertising. Two of those cited are former Nevada licensed contractors whose licenses have been revoked within the last four months.

“The participation of the entire legitimate construction and development profession is instrumental in bringing the scourge of unlicensed contracting under control,” said NSCB Executive Officer Margi Grein. “We are also proud of the cooperation we received from the both the Sparks and Henderson Police Departments. The presence of police officers during these operations sends a strong message that law enforcement across the board considers unlicensed contracting activities serious threats to the safety and welfare of Nevada’s citizens.”

In both investigations, Board investigators posing as property owners contacted unlicensed contractors, inviting them to visit the sting location to discuss performing floor tile installation, landscaping, drywall,

(more)

painting and plumbing work. According to Nevada law, all electrical, plumbing, air conditioning and heating work must be performed by licensed contractors. All other work requires a license if the cost of the project – labor and materials – totals \$1,000 or more or requires a building permit. It is against the law to advertise to perform any trade for which the Board issues licenses.

The Board's criminal investigators conducting stings use the interactions to encourage unlicensed contractors to obtain their contractor's licenses while also fulfilling the Board's mandate to protect the health, safety and welfare of the public.

Below are details of each alleged violation for which a citation was issued:

SUSPECT (Sparks)

Michael Thompson
 Fredrick Abrams
 Daniel Manson
 Richard Buckley
 James Johnson
 Kurt Krug

ALLEGED VIOLATION

contracting without a license
 advertising without a license
 contracting without a license; advertising without a license
 contracting without a license; advertising without a license
 contracting without a license; advertising without a license
 advertising without a license

SUSPECT (Henderson)

Samuel Lainez
 Joseph Beck
 Miguel Way-Escobedo
 Victor Alvarado
 Albara Burciaga-Diaz
 Tim Ament
 Billy Davila
 Robert Greenwood
 Timothy Johnson
 Salvador Ulloa-Gutierrez
 Cristobal Gonzalez-Lopez
 Manuel Hawk Garcia

ALLEGED VIOLATION

advertising without a license
 contracting without a license; advertising without a license
 contracting without a license; advertising without a license
 contracting without a license; advertising without a license
 contracting without a license; advertising without a license
 advertising without a license
 advertising without a license
 contracting without a license; advertising without a license
 contracting without a license; advertising without a license
 advertising without a license (warrant issued)
 contracting without a license; advertising without a license
 advertising without a license

The Board encourages anyone who comes across unlicensed contracting activities to report the information to **NSCB's Unlicensed Contractor Hotline: (702) 486-1160 or (775) 850-7838**. Details to provide the Board, when available, include the unlicensed contractor's name, address (business and/or physical location where work is being performed), phone number, vehicle description, license plate, business card and/or advertisement, contracts signed by the unlicensed individual, etc.

NSCB advises homeowners utilizing online sources, such as Craigslist, to contact contractors for home construction and/or repair services to do so with caution. It is important homeowners remember:

- Always verify the contractor's license number on NSCB's website at www.nscb.nv.gov before hiring.

- Provide the Board the scope of your project (in writing) before hiring a contractor to determine whether a contractor's license is needed.
- Plumbing, electrical, heating, air conditioning, and refrigeration services all require the use of a licensed contractor – regardless of the size or scope of the project.
- Homeowners who use unlicensed contractors are ineligible for the Residential Recovery Fund.
- Contracts made with an unlicensed contractor are not recognized/valid in the State of Nevada.

NSCB encourages consumers to follow these guidelines when hiring a contractor:

1. Only hire licensed contractors.
2. Check the contractor's license number by utilizing our Online Contractor Search at www.nscb.nv.gov
3. Get at least three bids.
4. Obtain references and follow up with them on the quality and satisfaction of work performed.
5. Always get a written contract and do not sign anything until you completely understand the terms.
6. For pool contracts, pay 10 percent down or \$1,000 - whichever is less, if a deposit is required.
7. Don't let payments get ahead of the work. Keep a record of all payments.
8. Don't make a final payment until you are satisfied with the job.
9. Never pay with cash; only check or credit.
10. Keep a job file of all papers relating to your project.

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