



NEVADA STATE CONTRACTORS BOARD

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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BOARD PARTICIPATES IN NATIONAL COORDINATED ENFORCEMENT EFFORT

LAS VEGAS and RENO, NEV. – In a coordinated effort with the National Association of State Contractors Licensing Agencies (NASCLA), the Nevada State Contractors Board's (NSCB) Enforcement Division engaged in a multi-state effort to combat individuals unlawfully performing construction related activities in the State of Nevada. NSCB efforts focused on those advertising without a license (NRS 624.720) and contracting without a license (NRS 624.700).

“Over the past 3 weeks, the Nevada State Contractors Board concentrated investigative efforts on a national coordinated enforcement effort focused on unlicensed contractors,” stated NSCB Executive Officer Margi Grein. “From June 6 – 24, 2022, we conducted 3 sting operations and dozens of site visits. Similar operations were occurring at the same time in multiple states through the synchronization of NASCLA.”

Investigators from the Board's Compliance and Special Investigations Divisions teamed up to perform 98 site visits at construction sites during the three-week time period where violations of NRS Chapter 624 were validated among licensed and unlicensed contractors. Additionally, three sting operations were conducted resulting in 11 criminal cases against unlicensed contractors. In total, the Board's efforts during the time period resulted in 50 criminal cases for unlawful construction activities; 7 cases related to violations of industry regulations under NRS 624; and the issuance of 22 Cease and Desist Orders.

“On the surface, unlicensed contracting may not seem like the most serious crime, but the consequences can be devastating to homeowners, especially when it results in injury or death,” said Grein. “Additionally, homeowners who utilize unlicensed contractors lose significant protections including access to Nevada's Residential Recovery Fund.”

The concentrated effort in Nevada was part of a nationwide effort in multiple states to curtail illegal contracting and highlight the financial and public safety threats it presents. Unlicensed contractor sting operations are an opportunity for Board investigators to pose as home and business owners in an effort to solicit bids from

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unlicensed contractors. These unlicensed contractors have advertised services often requiring a contractor's license on online bulletin boards, social media, and other locations. Bids received from unlicensed individuals in excess of \$1,000, including labor and material, or for work that requires a contractor's license or building permit are illegal.

Upon receipt of an illegal bid, Board Investigators disclose their affiliation, issue a criminal citation in most cases, and encourage the unlicensed individual to obtain their contractor's license, which may result in a lesser penalty. Nevada law requires any electrical, plumbing, heating and air conditioning or fire protection work to be performed by a properly licensed Nevada contractor, as these are trades that can have significant life safety impacts on the public.

One of the ways Nevadans who hire licensed contractors are protected is through the Residential Recovery Fund. The Fund is available to owners of single-family residences and allows an owner who is damaged by a licensed contractor up to four years from the date work is performed to submit a claim. The fund may award up to \$40,000 for repairs and to recover damages.

The Board urges 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 person, etc.

Disclaimer – All alleged suspects are presumed innocent until proven guilty by a court of law.

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The Nevada State Contractors Board is committed to ensuring the integrity and professionalism of the construction industry in Nevada. The NSCB has the responsibility to promote quality construction by Nevada licensed contractors through a regulatory licensing system designed to protect the health, safety and welfare of the public. For more information about the Nevada State Contractors Board, please visit www.nscb.nv.gov.

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