



Nevada State Contractors Board

NEWS RELEASE

www.nscb.state.nv.us

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Sonya Ruffin, APR
(702) 486-1100 x1139
or (775) 688-1141 x1139

NSCB Ten Most Wanted Arrest



Thomas Fico, wanted by the Nevada State Contractors Board for felony charges of *Contracting without a License, Diversion of Funds and Obtaining Money under False Pretenses* was recently arrested by Henderson police. Fico, who represented himself as a landscaper, was one of the NSCB's Ten Most Wanted. He has a history that includes felony arrest warrants in excess of \$60,000 with Clark County Justice Court and Nevada Parole and Probation.

According to a recent article in the Las Vegas Review Journal, Fico had defrauded many local Southern Nevada residents with various scams in addition to unlicensed contracting.

Unlicensed contracting is a crime in Nevada. The first offense is a Misdemeanor, the second a Gross Misdemeanor, and the third is a Class E Felony.

The Nevada State Contractors Board warns homeowners to hire only licensed contractors. Homeowners may check that a contractor that they are considering is licensed on the Web at www.nscb.state.nv.us or by contacting the agency by phone at (702) 486-1100.

The NSCB urges consumers to follow these simple tips when dealing with a contractor:

- 1. Hire only licensed contractors. Ask to see the license.**
- 2. Don't rush into decisions or hire without checking out potential contractors.**
- 3. Be especially wary when approached by someone offering home improvements door-to-door.**
- 4. Verify the contractor's licensed by checking online at www.nscb.state.nv.us or via automated phone service at 702-486-1100 (Las Vegas) or 775-688-1141 (Reno).**
- 5. Ensure the contractor is properly licensed for the work you want done on your home.**
- 6. Limit the amount of your down payment or deposit to 10% of the total contract.**
- 7. Don't pay cash without obtaining signed receipts and don't let the payments get ahead of the work.**

8. **Require lien releases from all contractors and sub-contractors as the work is completed and at the end of the project.**
9. **Get at least three bids, check references, and get a written contract.**
10. **Contact the NSCB if you have a complaint against a contractor.**
11. **Get three bids, check references and get a written contract.**
12. **Contact the NSCB if you have a complaint against a contractor.**

The Nevada State Contractors Board is committed to protecting the public's health, safety, and welfare through licensing and regulation of the construction industry. Under Nevada Revised Statutes, a licensee is subject to disciplinary action by the Board for failure to comply with the requirements of the laws or regulations governing contractors. Violations may result in Board action against the contractor's license. The State Contractors Board has the power to regulate contractors and discipline licensees who violate NRS 624. Disciplinary action may consist of a fine of up to \$10,000 per offense, order corrective action, suspension, revocation or other action.
