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13 Unlucky Unlicensed Contractors Stung

Nevada State Contractors Board investigators continued their efforts in identifying and locating Unlicensed Contractors, who advertise on Craig's List, local bulletin boards and flyers distributed to unsuspecting homeowners.

During the month of March, Board investigators, posing as homeowners, contacted the Unlicensed Contractors and arranged to meet them at various "sting houses."

Unlicensed Contractors who responded to the "sting houses" and gave bids for their work or were advertising for electrical, plumbing or HVAC work, were issued citations for their activity and will appear in Justice Court.

The following Northern and Southern Nevada Unlicensed Contractors were cited: **Carlos N. Moreno – Total Pro Plumbing; Rachel L. Williams – Reno's Best Handyman; Christopher J. Hailvik – Electrician; Richard D. Knoll – Helping Hand Handyman; Guillermo Falcon – A Falcon To The Rescue; Ronald E. Shryack – Plumber; Thomas Varela – Plumber; Gerardo Perez-Alejo – Handyman Services; Ernest R. Bucher – J R Home Repair; Javier Cruz-Castillo – Castillo's Stucco; Charles Matzdroff – Vegas Scapes; David W. Rowe – Get It Done; and Fabian Rodriguez – Welding.**

The Nevada State Contractors Board reviews advertisements on the internet, local construction supplier bulletin boards and homeowner flyers to identify the Unlicensed Contractors.

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The NSCB then conducts stings on a regular basis to protect the consumers from Unlicensed Contractors.

Generally, Unlicensed Contractors do not have business licenses, liability insurance, workers compensation or the financial responsibility to ensure quality work. Unlicensed Contractors are also in violation of state taxation laws, which create an underground economy in Nevada.

Contracting or advertising without a Nevada State Contractor's license is a misdemeanor for the first offense, a gross misdemeanor of the second offense and a Class E Felony for the third offense.

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

- **Hire only licensed contractors. Ask to see their NSCB license.**
- **Don't rush into decisions or hire someone without checking out potential contractors.**
- **Be especially wary when approached by someone offering door-to-door home improvements.**
- **Verify the contractor's license by checking online at: www.nscb.state.nv.us or calling: (702) 486-1100 in Southern Nevada, or (775) 688-1141 in Northern Nevada.**
- **Ensure the contractor is properly licensed for the work you want done on your home.**
- **Limit your down payment or deposit to 10 percent of the total contract.**
- **Don't pay cash without obtaining signed receipts, and don't let the payments get ahead of the work.**

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