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**California Contractors Board Sting Operation Catches
Nevada Contractors Illegally Operating In Lake Tahoe Fire Area**

As part of an ongoing undercover sting operation, the California Contractors State License Board (CSLB) arrested six Nevada contractors (two licensed in the state of Nevada and one unlicensed) July 25 and 26, who were illegally seeking work in the Lake Tahoe (Angora) Fire Disaster Area. Five of the six Nevada contractors and one unlicensed California contractor were arrested and sent to jail.

The Nevadans who were arrested include:

Donald Walden Rue, dba Fernley Groundskeeping LLC, license numbers 67489 and 67490, (Excavating & Grading and Landscaping), based out of Fernley, NV; **Hector Gonzalez Cruz, dba Experienced Painters**, license number 19976 (Painting), based out of Reno, NV; and unlicensed contractors **Daniel Scott Lilley**, based out of Stateline, NV; **Theodore Joseph Durrer**, based out of Dayton, NV; and **Marco DiGiacinto**, based out of Fallon, NV. A sixth unlicensed Nevada contractor was detained and released on a misdemeanor charge.

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Rue previously had one misdemeanor citation and a warning letter from the Nevada State Contractors Board, prior to being licensed by the state of Nevada.

The NSCB is currently investigating the alleged violations by Rue and Cruz, and will continue to monitor closely the rebuilding efforts in California for any possible violations by licensed Nevada contractors.

CSLB Statewide Investigative Fraud Team (SWIFT) members posed as homeowners whose house was destroyed by the recent fire. The CSLB has had investigators in the fire area since June 26.

Contracting for work in California, as well as Nevada, without a valid contractor's license is against the law. Homeowners in the California fire disaster area are urged to make sure a contractor is licensed in California by checking online at: www.cslb.ca.gov, or call the CSLB's automated phone service at: 1-800-321-CSLB (2752).

To see if a contractor is licensed in the State of Nevada, go online to: www.nscb.state.nv.us or call (775) 688-1141 in Northern Nevada or (702) 486-1100 in Southern Nevada.

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

- **Hire only licensed contractors. Ask to see the license.**
- **Don't rush into decisions or hire without checking out potential contractors.**
- **Be especially wary when approached by someone offering home improvements door-to door.**
- **Verify the contractor's licensed by checking online at www.nscb.state.nv.us or via automated phone service at (702) 486-1100 (Southern Nevada), or (775) 688-1141 (Northern Nevada).**
- **Ensure the contractor is properly licensed for the work you want done on your home.**
- **Limit the amount of 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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