



NSCB News Release



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CONTACT: Jennifer Turner
Public Information Officer
(702) 486-1139

Scott Smith
Public Information Specialist
(702) 486-1165

CONSUMER ALERT **TRAVELERS COMING TO NEVADA LIKELY TO ENGAGE IN HOME REPAIR SCAMS**

HENDERSON AND RENO, Nev. – The Nevada State Contractors Board is advising consumers throughout the State of Nevada that groups of individuals, known as “travelers,” are beginning to move west and will likely be seen driving through neighborhoods soliciting home improvement services. Such groups are known for initiating various home improvement scams and soliciting asphalt paving or roofing projects.

Travelers often approach homeowners working in their front yards and by door-to-door solicitations. Their vehicles are usually new, clean, and loaded down with supplies. Their sales pitch is one of high pressured sales tactics, “too good to be true” deals and “today-only” discount offers. Travelers often claim they have performed work for others in the neighborhood and have extra materials left over that could be used to “fix” a similar “problem” for the next homeowner or victim.

“Unfortunately, travelers come to Nevada every year when the weather turns warm,” noted NSCB Executive Officer Margi Grein. “The majority of travelers are not contractors; they are con artists who travel from state to state, working out of trucks and vans, installing inferior materials using shoddy workmanship and leaving town before their victims realize they have been scammed.”

NSCB reminds consumers to be skeptical of salespersons approaching them at their homes. Be suspicious when service people ask for cash payments, seem reluctant to provide a written contract, present business cards with out-of-state addresses, post office boxes or no telephone numbers. Always ask for a business card and contractor’s license number, then check the Board’s [website](#) or call the NSCB office (702-486-1100 in Henderson or 775-688-1141 in Reno) to confirm the number is legitimate.

Never succumb to pressure to agree to work and never pay in cash. If a salesperson makes you feel uncomfortable, call law enforcement and immediately report the incident.

(more)

“These unlicensed contractors who refuse to adhere to state laws are placing their customers at a huge risk and disadvantage should something go wrong during the project,” Grein said.

Homeowners seeking contractors for home improvement services are encouraged to remember the following:

- Always hire a licensed contractor.
- Report unlicensed or suspicious contractors to NSCB’s Unlicensed Contractor Hotline: (702) 486-1160 or (775) 850-7838.
- Be cautious of who you let into your home, especially if it’s a door-to-door solicitor offering a free inspection.
- Homeowners who hire unlicensed contractors are not eligible for the Residential Recovery Fund, which may award financial recourse up to \$35,000 if damages are incurred during the project.
- NSCB is limited in its ability to assist homeowners with correcting workmanship issues if an unlicensed contractor was hired.
- Unlicensed contractors have not passed trade and law exams, demonstrated financial responsibility, and are not required to carry worker’s compensation insurance, which are all required of licensed contractors in Nevada.
- Always contact the Board with any questions or concerns *prior to* hiring a contractor. The Board can provide information on a contractor’s license status, what classification of contractor’s license may be required for a project, and address any other questions homeowner’s may have.

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