



NSCB News Release



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CONTRACTORS BOARD STING RESULTS IN 12 CITATIONS

HENDERSON, Nev. –Nevada State Contractors Board (NSCB) investigators cited 12 unlicensed contractors during a sting operation in Las Vegas on February 25. Seven suspects were cited for allegedly engaging in business or submitting a bid without a contractor’s license, a violation of Nevada Revised Statute (NRS) 624.700. Five were charged with allegedly advertising without a contractor’s license (NRS 624.720).

Board investigators identified potential unlicensed contractors through Craigslist postings, bulletin board flyers, home show participation and other means. Acting as property owners, the investigators contacted unlicensed contractors and invited them to visit the sting location to discuss tiling, drywall, electrical and other work. According to Nevada law, anyone performing repair and maintenance projects must possess the proper licensure if it involves electrical, plumbing, air conditioning, heating, or refrigeration work, the job requires a building permit, or if the cost of the project – labor and materials included – totals \$1,000 or more.

Alleged suspects contracting without a license:

- Bradley Kallsen
- Kelly Vickers
- Frank Lowenthal
- Francisco H. Rico-Murillo
- Antonio Carl Montes
- Graham Watson
- Luis Manuel Casais-Najera

Alleged suspects conducting unlawful advertising:

- Sergio Rubio
- Kenneth Davis
- Sergio Samano
- Jossef Behor
- Merlos-Barajas, Francisco Igna

“Sting operations serve to identify illegal activity and encourage unlicensed contractors to obtain a contractor’s license. More importantly, it is one of our most effective tools in reducing future risk to homeowners,” said NSCB Executive Officer Margi A. Grein. “Homeowners often don’t realize the financial protections they lose when hiring unlicensed contractors. They are no longer eligible for reimbursement from the Residential Recovery Fund nor are they able to receive assistance from the Board to get workmanship issues corrected.”

(continued)

The Board's criminal investigators conduct stings to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public. Cases against unlicensed contractors are referred to the local district attorney's office for prosecution. A first offense is punishable by a misdemeanor, second offense is a gross misdemeanor, and third offense is a class-E felony.

The Board encourages anyone who suspects unlicensed contracting activities to report it to the **NSCB Unlicensed Contractor Hotline: (702) 486-1100 or (775) 850-7838**. If available, include the unlicensed contractor's name, business address, project location, phone number and vehicle make, model, color and license plate number. When contracting for home repair and maintenance projects, always verify the contractor's license number on NSCB's website at www.nscb.nv.gov

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