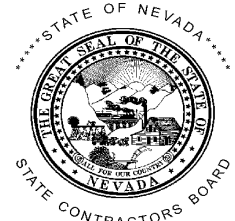




NSCB News Release



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'BORDER BLITZ' STING IN TAHOE NETS 17 UNLICENSED CONTRACTORS

Reno, Nev. – The Nevada State Contractors Board (NSCB) joined forces with the California Contractors State License Board (CSLB) in its fourth annual 'Border Blitz' sting operation targeting unscrupulous and unlicensed contractors operating illegally under California and Nevada laws. A total of 17 individuals were cited during the one-day operation on April 27, 2015 – five unlicensed contractors at a home near Pioneer Trail in South Lake Tahoe, Calif., and 12 others at a Stateline, Nev. condominium. Those cited by NSCB included alleged violations of engaging in business or submitting a bid without a contractor's license (NRS 624.700) and advertising without a contractor's license (NRS 624.720).

"Unlicensed contracting is a serious crime targeting homeowners across all state borders," said NSCB Executive Officer Margi Grein. "Joining our enforcement resources for sting events, such as the Border Blitz, demonstrates our boards' unity and commitment to protecting the public from unscrupulous contractors."

"Our Boards have had a united stand against illegal contracting for quite some time – from Board member collaboration to field investigations of contractors who have hurt consumers in both states," said CSLB Registrar Cindi A. Christenson. "Both boards look for opportunities to send a joint message that we will not tolerate contractors who try to take advantage of the public."

Board investigators from both states posed as homeowners and contacted unlicensed contractors, inviting them to visit the sting location to discuss performing painting and plumbing work. According to Nevada law, all electrical, plumbing, air conditioning and heating work must be performed by licensed contractors. All other work requires a license if the cost of the project – labor and materials –

(more)

totals \$1,000 or more or requires a contractor's license. California law requires a contractor's license for any bid that exceeds \$500, inclusive of materials and labor.

The Board's criminal investigators conducting stings use the interactions to encourage unlicensed contractors to obtain their contractor's licenses while also fulfilling the Board's mandate to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public.

Below are details of each alleged violation for which a citation was issued by NSCB investigators:

SUSPECT	LICENSE STATUS	TRADE	ALLEGED VIOLATION(S)
Tyler F. Beaulac	NV Unlicensed Contractor	Masonry	Contracting without a License Advertising without a License
Brian Keith Beltran	CA Licensed Contractor	Painting	Contracting without a License Advertising without a License
Elijah Joseph Vasques	Expired CA Licensed Contractor	Plumbing	Contracting without a License Advertising without a License
James Allen Waggoner	NV Unlicensed Contractor	Painting	Contracting without a License Advertising without a License
Donald Peter Duprey	Suspended CA Licensed Contractor	Painting	Contracting without a License Advertising without a License
James Raymond Duprey	Suspended CA Licensed Contractor	Painting	Contracting without a License Advertising without a License
David Keith Jones	NV Unlicensed Contractor	Painting	Contracting without a License Advertising without a License
Frank Michael Colino	NV Unlicensed Contractor	Plumbing	Contracting without a License Advertising without a License
Bruce Kevin Wagoner	NV Unlicensed Contractor	Painting	Contracting without a License Advertising without a License
Timothy James Ranalla	NV Unlicensed Contractor	Plumbing	Contracting without a License Advertising without a License
Maryam Mashhoon	CA Unlicensed Contractor	Painting	Contracting without a License Advertising without a License
Wayne William Weismanuel	NV Unlicensed Contractor	Painting	Contracting without a License

The Board encourages anyone who comes across unlicensed contracting activities to report the information to **NSCB's Unlicensed Contractor Hotline: (702) 486-1160 or (775) 850-7838**. Details to provide the Board, when available, include the unlicensed contractor's name, address (business and/or physical location where work is being performed), phone number, vehicle description, license plate, business card and/or advertisement, contracts signed by the unlicensed individual, etc.

NSCB advises homeowners utilizing online sources, such as Craigslist, to contact contractors for home construction and/or repair services to do so with caution. It is important homeowners remember:

- Always verify the contractor's license number on NSCB's website at www.nscb.nv.gov before hiring.
- Provide the Board the scope of your project (in writing) before hiring a contractor to determine whether a contractor's license is needed.
- Plumbing, electrical, heating, air conditioning, and refrigeration services all require the use of a licensed contractor – regardless of the size or scope of the project.
- Homeowners who use unlicensed contractors are ineligible for the Residential Recovery Fund.
- Contracts made with an unlicensed contractor are not recognized/valid in the State of Nevada.

NSCB encourages consumers to follow these guidelines when hiring a contractor:

1. Only hire licensed contractors.
2. Check the contractor's license number by utilizing our Online Contractor Search at www.nscb.nv.gov
3. Get at least three bids.
4. Obtain references and follow up with them on the quality and satisfaction of work performed.
5. Always get a written contract and do not sign anything until you completely understand the terms.
6. For pool contracts, pay 10 percent down or \$1,000 - whichever is less, if a deposit is required.
7. Don't let payments get ahead of the work. Keep a record of all payments.
8. Don't make a final payment until you are satisfied with the job.
9. Never pay with cash; only check or credit.
10. Keep a job file of all papers relating to your project.

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