



NSCB News Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CONTACT: Jennifer Lewis
Public Information Officer
(702) 486-1139

Scott Smith
Public Information Specialist
(702) 486-1165

CONTRACTORS BOARD RECOGNIZES CONSUMER PROTECTION WEEK; PARTICIPATES IN STATE EVENT

HENDERSON, Nev. – March 7-11 is Consumer Protection Week and the Nevada State Contractors Board will join other Nevada consumer affairs and public safety agencies, law enforcement, legal aid organizations, and fair housing, finance and employment advocates for the free public forum at the Grant Sawyer Building, 555 E. Washington Ave.

Hosted by the Nevada Office of Consumer Affairs, the event takes place Wed., March 9 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., and will include a resource fair, presentation by the Nevada Attorney General's office on scams, as well as a panel discussion concerning fraud prevention. Information provided will inform consumers on how they can avoid becoming victims of fraud, where to turn for help after they have been scammed and their rights as consumers.

“Education is power when it comes to defending against fraud,” noted NSCB Executive Officer Margi Grein. “The advent of warmer weather means an increase in unlicensed and unscrupulous contracting in Nevada. When consumers learn to recognize the warning signs, they know the questions to ask, how to verify a contractor’s license, insist on written contracts containing all provisions, and to only make payments commensurate with the work’s progress.”

Grein advised homeowners to beware of certain business practices that should raise red flags:

- *Door-to-Door Solicitations* – Contractors may come to the door immediately surveying damage and selling their services on-the-spot at a reduced price.

(more)

- *Verbal Agreements* – Contractors may say that a written contract is unnecessary.
- *High Pressure Sales Tactics*– Contractors may push for an immediate decision about work and will not allow the homeowner time to verify their contractor’s license, obtain multiple bids, or check references.
- *Demands for Cash Payment* – Contractors may insist on cash payments, even offering to drive/follow the homeowner to the bank to obtain the funds.
- *Demands for Large Down Payment* – Contractors may say that they need the majority of the funds to purchase supplies and pay workers prior to any work being performed. As a general rule of thumb, it is best not to pay more than ten percent down and not let payments get ahead of the work.

Homeowners who suspect unlicensed contracting activity should call **NSCB’s Unlicensed Contractor Hotline: (702) 486-1160 or (775) 850-7838.**

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MEDIA NOTE: Consumer Fraud Prevention Fair flyer attached.

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