



NEVADA STATE CONTRACTORS BOARD

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CONSUMER ALERT

Homeowners Affected by Pinehaven Fire Urged to Verify License of Contractors to Avoid Becoming Victim to Home Repair Scams

RENO, Nev. – The Nevada State Contractors Board (NSCB) urges northern Nevada residents whose homes have been damaged by the Pinehaven Fire to be cautious of solicitors requesting to perform construction related services on their homes. Verifying a contractor’s license number and using the NSCB’s resources can help protect those affected by the fire from becoming victimized during the rebuilding phase.

NSCB urges Nevadans to hire only licensed contractors. Doing so affords homeowners access to the Board’s resources and allows owners to file a complaint up to four years from the date the work was performed if workmanship issues arise. The complaint process allows the Board to investigate consumer concerns and determine options for remedy for validated issues, holding licensed contractors accountable to the terms of a contract.

“The Contractors Board empathizes with the devastating losses homeowners are again experiencing from the Pinehaven Fire, having recently recovered from the Caughlin Ranch Fire,” expressed NSCB Executive Officer Margi A. Grein. “In these vulnerable times, homeowners are reminded of the importance of verifying the contractor’s license of anyone hired to repair or rebuild a home. The health and safety of the public is our top priority and we encourage you to contact the Board with questions or for assistance during any phase of your project.”

Homeowners should first contact their homeowner’s insurance to file a claim and understand what repairs are covered, as well as the timeline for repairs to be made to your home. Request a list of contractors your insurance provider uses and verify they are appropriately licensed, holding an ‘Active’ license status, on the Board’s website www.nscb.nv.gov or by contacting our office at 775-688-1141.

A contractor’s license is required by law for the majority of construction services, with limited exceptions. State law also requires all contractors to place their license numbers and monetary limit on all advertisements, proposals, contracts and vehicles. Common red flags of unscrupulous contractors, may include, but not be limited to:

- Failure to provide a valid contractor’s license number, which is separate from a Nevada Business License number.
- Demands for cash payments or checks written directly to an individual and not a licensed company.
- Highly discounted services or “today only” specials.
- Refusal to provide a homeowner with a detailed written contract.

It is natural to want to have repairs completed as quickly as possible, but the first concern must be residents’ personal safety. Fire can cause damage to a home’s framing and roofing that is not readily apparent. Do not enter potentially hazardous areas, such as floors above damaged ceilings, until the home’s structural integrity can be professionally assessed. Homeowners also will want to engage crews to board up broken windows and holes burned into the home to secure the property from further damage from wind, weather, wildlife incursions, looting and vandalism.



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Following a disaster, it is likely to see an influx of contractors, both licensed and unlicensed, driving through damaged neighborhoods speaking to homeowners and seeking home-repair projects. It is important to note that contractors with licensed companies in neighboring states, such as California or Utah, who are not licensed in Nevada are considered unlicensed contractors in this state. Therefore, be cautious before entering into a contract for services and perform diligence in researching a company before hiring them.

When searching for a contractor to repair fire damage, the Contractors Board advises homeowners to take additional steps to protect themselves:

- Ask friends, family and neighbors for the names of contractors they have used and trust, but be sure to verify they maintain an active license by the Contractors Board.
- Use the Board's license search tool to find licensed contractors by classification (specific trade) within a respective county. <https://app.nvcontractorsboard.com/Clients/nvscb/Public/ContractorListing/ListingSearch.aspx>
- Verify all contractor and subcontractor licenses using the Board's website, mobile application, or by calling the Board's office.
- Insist on a written contract that details the work to be done, the exact materials to be used, start and completion dates, warranties and the amount and timing of payments.
- Down payments are recommended not to exceed \$1,000 or 10% of the total contract value, whichever is less.
- Never let payments get ahead of the work performed.
- Always contact the Board or file a licensed contractor complaint if you are unable to resolve project-related issues or are unsatisfied with the work performed.
- Report unlicensed contracting activity, by calling the NSCB Hotline: 775-850-7838.

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Visit our website for additional resources: www.nscb.nv.gov

Join our [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) pages for current information on NSCB resources and related tips.

Contact us Monday - Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (excluding holidays)

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