



Nevada State Contractors Board
NEWS RELEASE

www.nscb.state.nv.us

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**HOMEOWNERS BEWARE – HOME REPAIR SCAMS HERE AFTER RECENT
RAINSTORMS AND FLOODING IN SOUTHERN NEVADA AND EXCESSIVE SNOW
IN NORTHERN NEVADA.**

After the recent rainstorms and flooding in the Clark County area and excessive snow in Northern Nevada, the Nevada State Contractors Board (NSCB) is alerting homeowners to protect themselves against home repair scams by unlicensed contractors.

Ms. Margi A. Grein, the Executive Officer of the NSCB cautions homeowners to take a little time to check out your contractor and ensure he is properly licensed before giving any money or authorizing the repair of your rain or flood damage. Protect your most valuable asset, your home.

The severe storms serve as a magnet for unlicensed contractors offering “good deals” or emergency repairs on jobs such as roofing repairs, landscape repairs, concrete replacement, drywall replacement, and general repairs for damage from the water or snow. Poor repairs by unqualified contractors can cause more problems than the original damage and leave the homeowner with no viable recourse against the unlicensed contractor.

Unsuspecting homeowners in damaged neighborhoods are approached by door-to-door unlicensed contractors looking for quick profits and providing poor workmanship. These unlicensed contractors do not have bonds, liability insurance and their workers are not covered by workman’s compensation benefits. If the contractor or his employee is injured on your property, you the homeowner may be liable for the injuries. Many times they will ask for cash payments up front or before completing the work. Their written contracts are either non-existent or generally written; there are no specific details about how the repairs are to be completed or what materials are to be used. There are no completion dates. The contracts will not display a

valid NSCB license number or monetary limit. These are all red flags of the unlicensed contractor.

Anyone who performs residential or commercial construction, remodeling or repair must have a valid Nevada State Contractors license and display it on his contract or invoice and must display his pocket card if requested by the homeowner. There are no licenses issued for handymen or disaster repair personnel. Many repair projects will require building permits and may include specialized electrical work, which if done improperly can result in health or safety hazards in the residence.

The NSCB urges all homeowners to check out contractors to determine the company's license status and to report the company to the NSCB at 702-486-1160 in Las Vegas or 775-850-7838 in the Reno area, if you suspect an unlicensed contractor is in your area. NSCB investigators will respond to all complaints of unlicensed contracting activity within a short period of time. Help protect yourself and your neighbors.

The NSCB regulates contractors in the state by providing a licensing and regulatory system designed to protect the health, safety and welfare of the public. Additionally the NSCB offers financial protection to residential consumers who use licensed contractors through its Residential Recovery fund.

The Nevada State Contractors Board offers the following tips to homeowners seeking home repairs or remodeling in wake of the recent storms:

1. Hire only licensed contractors.
2. Check the contractors' license number by calling the Nevada State Contractors Board at (775) 688-1141 in northern Nevada or (702) 486-1100 in southern Nevada or by doing a license check on our website, www.nscb.state.nv.us.
3. Get three references and review past work.
4. Get at least three bids.
5. Get a written contract and do not sign anything until you completely understand the terms.
6. For pool contracts, pay 10% 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're satisfied with the job.
9. Don't pay cash.
10. Keep a job file of all papers relating to your project.

For more information about the NSCB and its services to the public, visit www.nscb.state.nv.us.