



NSCB News Release



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CONSUMER ALERT **CONTRACTORS BOARD ADDS UNLICENSED CONTRACTOR TO** **'TOP TEN MOST WANTED' LIST**

HENDERSON AND RENO, Nev. – The Nevada State Contractors Board (NSCB) is issuing a consumer alert to all Nevada residents that unlicensed contractor, [Benjamin A. Smith, has been added to NSCB's Top Ten Most Wanted list](#). Smith is known for operating under business name KB Companies, but may also operate using his formerly licensed business names: BSA Construction and Development (#64652, electrical contracting) or BSA Construction, LLC (#66728, residential and small commercial), neither of which maintains an active contractor's license.

Smith is known for taking on commercial projects, but may also do residential work. Reports of active projects in both northern and southern Nevada have been made to the Contractors Board. Smith is described as a white male, 5 feet 11 inches tall, weighing 185 pounds, with blonde hair and blue eyes. He also has tattoos on the back of both arms. Smith currently has a warrant out for his arrest by the Justice and Municipal Court of Carson Township for contracting without a license.

Anyone with information on the whereabouts of Mr. Smith or active construction projects he may be working on should call **NSCB's Unlicensed Contractor Hotline at: (775) 850-7838 or (702) 486-1160.**

"Unlicensed contractors who refuse to adhere to state laws are placing their customers at a huge risk and disadvantage should something go wrong during the project," stated NSCB Executive Officer Margi Grein. "We encourage anyone who comes into contact with Mr. Smith to please contact the Board or their local law enforcement immediately."

The contractor's license for BSA Construction and Development was cancelled in Feb. 2008 for non-renewal and the license for BSA Construction, LLC was revoked in June 2010 by the Board for failure to establish financial responsibility; failure to keep in force a bond or cash deposit; fraudulent or deceitful act; failure or refusal to respond to request to cooperate in investigation of complaint; and failure or refusal to comply with a request for information or records.

Homeowners seeking contractors for home improvement services are encouraged to remember the following:

- Always hire a licensed contractor.
- Homeowners who hire unlicensed contractors are not eligible for the Residential Recovery Fund, which may award financial recourse up to \$35,000 if damages are incurred during the project.
- NSCB is limited in its ability to assist homeowners with correcting workmanship issues if an unlicensed contractor was hired.
- Unlicensed contractors have not passed trade and law exams, demonstrated financial responsibility, and are not required to carry worker's compensation insurance, which are all required of licensed contractors in Nevada.
- Always contact the Board with any questions or concerns *prior to* hiring a contractor. The Board can provide information on a contractor's license status, what classification of contractor's license may be required for a project, and address any other questions homeowner's may have.

NSCB encourages consumers looking for contractors to perform work to follow these ten tips:

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 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 are satisfied with the job.
9. Don't pay cash.
10. Keep a job file of all papers relating to your project.

Additional information for consumers is available on NSCB's website at www.nscb.nv.gov

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MEDIA NOTE: The attached .jpg is of Benjamin A. Smith and is for media use only.