



23309 N. 17th Drive, Building 1, Unit 110
Phoenix, Arizona 85027
Phone: (623) 587-9354
Fax: (623) 587-9625

**PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: Angie Whitaker
NASCLA Executive Director
Phone: (623) 587-9354
Email: angiewhitaker@nascla.org

NASCLA ANNOUNCES 2017 NATIONAL COORDINATED ENFORCEMENT EFFORT
THE OPERATION INCLUDED 8 STATE MEMBERS ACROSS THE COUNTRY, TARGETING UNLICENSED CONTRACTORS

PHOENIX, AZ – JUNE 28, 2017

The National Association of State Contractors Licensing Agencies NASCLA participated in a national coordinated enforcement effort the weeks of June 5 – 16, 2017 which included 8 NASCLA State Members who took part in this event across the country. The states that participated were Arizona, California, Florida, Oregon, Rhode Island, Texas, Utah and Washington. Please click here to view the full press release which includes individual state statistics and information: www.nascla.org/blogpost/1535522/Press-Releases

The national coordinated enforcement effort focused on elevating the regulatory boards presence in the community and nationally. The goal of our state members was to come together in a united partnership to promote both consumer and public protection through the licensing and/or registration of contractors. The national coordinated enforcement effort involved state public information departments, investigative departments, executive directors/officers and the public media.

This nationally coordinated collaboration among our state members provided the opportunity to protect the consumers, deter illegal construction activity and level the playing field for legitimate contractors in the construction industry. Along with combating the increased illegal unlicensed activity nationally, the intention was to warn consumers that they need to be aware of these activities for regulatory compliance.

Based on joint coordinated enforcement efforts during the weeks of June 5 – 16, 2017, NASCLA State Members reported a total of 675 individuals who were found non-compliant with state licensing requirements. Arrests, administrative citations, legal actions, and more have been issued to these individuals. The following state statistics were reported by the NASCLA State Members based on their national coordinated enforcement efforts:



On Friday, June 16, 2017, the Arizona Registrar of Contractors (AZ ROC) concluded a 2-week, statewide enforcement effort targeting unlicensed entities performing contracting work and educating property owners on the importance of hiring only licensed contractors. The ROC's participation represented one of many states participating in their own efforts, all in coordination with the National Association of State Contractors Licensing Agencies (NASCLA).

The sweep was made up of 10, 2-person teams comprised of unlicensed and licensed investigators. A total of 244 contacts were made ranging from education/community outreach, warnings and violations. Most contacts were educational in nature while 26 warnings were given out. In addition, 43 violations were also noted for various reasons which may result in opening a case against the entity.

Director of the Arizona Registrar of Contractors Jeff Fleetham stated, "Individuals and entities performing contracting work illegally and without a license place the public at risk and effectively steal millions from Arizona's hardworking, law-abiding contractors and their employees. AZ ROC proudly participates in this nationwide enforcement effort and the ability to educate the public as to their need to hire licensed contracting professionals."

[Please Click Here to View the Arizona Registrar of Contractors Full Press Release.](#)



One-hundred suspected unlicensed contractors may face criminal charges, 7 others administrative citations, and 31 Stop Orders were issued during 6 undercover sting and 14 sweep operations conducted around California over a 2-week period by the California Contractors State License Board (CSLB). The extended operation, which took place June 7 – 22, 2017, in 11 different counties, was part of a nationwide enforcement effort coordinated by the National Association of State Contractors Licensing Agencies (NASCLA).

"Nationwide enforcement operations like this are critical to educating consumers on the risks they take if they hire someone who's not licensed to work in and around their home and family," said David Fogt, Registrar of California's Contractors State License Board. "It also helps keep the playing field level for the almost 285,000 licensed contractors here in California."

"Many homeowners think they'll get a better deal if they hire an unlicensed contractor," added Registrar Fogt. "Unfortunately, most end up either paying more money, getting a low quality job, with an unlicensed contractor who abandoned the job after getting money up-front, or they end up paying twice when they have to hire a licensed contractor to tear out the job and do it again the right way."

[Please Click Here to View the California Contractors State License Board's Full Press Release.](#)



The Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation (DBPR) is proud to share that the Department's Division of Regulation (in cooperation with Columbia, Flagler and Volusia County Sheriffs' Offices as well as various cities and townships) achieved much success in conducting undercover enforcement operations for the weeks of June 5 – 16, 2017. The successful multi-agency effort resulted in 10 Arrests, 7 Notices to Appear, 5 Charging Affidavits, 1 Citation, 36 Cease & Desist Orders and 56 additional cases to be opened against unlicensed subjects who advertised their services to perform that of a State Licensed Contractor. In addition, all of the unlicensed activity cases will be sent to the State Attorney's office for possible criminal prosecution.

"The Department of Business and Professional Regulation is committed to combating unlicensed activity to protect Florida's consumers and licensed business owners." said Interim Secretary Matilde Miller. "The efforts of the National Association of State Contractors Licensing Agencies and the cooperation it brings from other states and departments across the country are a wonderful opportunity to educate the public and raise awareness of predatory practices from unlicensed individuals practicing in the construction and electrical trades."

[Please Click Here to View the Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation's Full Press Release.](#)



The Oregon Construction Contractor Board (CCB) found 83 suspected violations of illegal construction resulting from visits to 380 job sites during a recent multistate enforcement action targeting the construction industry.

The Oregon "sweeps" of job sites occurred in early June, when CCB investigators showed up unannounced at job sites in the Bend area and along the state's northern border from Astoria to Pendleton.

"This coordinated multistate enforcement effort is a great way for us to draw attention to the work our enforcement staff carry on throughout our state every day," Administrator James Denno said.

"We take enforcement very seriously. If you hire an unlicensed contractor, you put yourself and your property at risk. Licensed contractors carry bonds and insurance, important requirements that provide protection for the public," Denno added. "We also provide mediation services where we help to iron out disputes that sometimes arise between homeowners and contractors. If you hire an unlicensed contractor, you don't have access to this service."

[Please Click Here to View the Oregon Construction Contractors Board's Full Press Release.](#)



The Rhode Island Contractors' Registration and Licensing Board participated in a national enhanced enforcement operation, in conjunction with multiple state members of the National Association of State Contractors Licensing Agencies (NASCLA).

The result of this enhanced enforcement activity was the visitation of some 29 construction sites in the state of Rhode Island on both the east bay and west bay. In checking and verifying contractor's registrations for both residential and commercial structures, 17 violations were issued as a result of this operation with potentially more violations pending the request for information regarding contracts with sub-contractors. Of the 17 violations issued 14 were for being non-registered contractors and 3 were for hiring contractors who were not registered. Contractors issued these violations have a right to an Administrative Hearing regarding the issues cited with the possibility of a reduction of the fines assessed of up to \$5,000.

"A highly effective enforcement enhancement operation was conducted by the Rhode Island Contractors' Registration and Licensing Board as a result of NASCLA's coordination and collaboration with other state members to provide genuine concern for the protection of the public and to assure a level playing field for registered and licensed contractors," stated Rhode Island Contractors' Registration and Licensing Board's Executive Director, George Whalen.

[Please Click Here to View the Rhode Island Contractors' Registration and Licensing Board's Full Press Release.](#)

[Please Click Here to View the Coverage from WPRI News in Rhode Island.](#)



From June 5 – 8, 2017, the Enforcement Division of the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation conducted an undercover sting operation in Alamo, Texas; which is located in the Rio Grande Valley area. The purpose of the sting was to catch unlicensed electrical and air conditioning contractors offering to perform services without proper licenses. Texas state law requires persons who perform or offer to perform electrical or air conditioning services to be licensed with the State.

As a result of this sting, the Department will open 44 cases against persons offering to perform without proper licensing.

"TDLR's mission is to honor the trust of all Texans, ensure public safety and consumer protection, and provide a fair and efficient regulatory environment" stated Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation's Executive Director, Brian E. Francis. The NASCLA National Coordinated Enforcement Effort provided the perfect opportunity to fulfill our mission and continue our efforts to assure a fair playing field for small businesses and to safeguard the public. TDLR is unwavering in its commitment to protect consumers and to ensure only licensed individuals reap the financial benefits of those skilled professions."

[Please Click Here to View the Coverage from KRGV News in Rio Grande Valley, Texas.](#)



The Utah Department of Commerce announced today that the Utah Division of Occupational and Professional Licensing completed a 2-week sting investigation in Northern Utah and Southern Utah locations to target fraudulent construction activity from June 5 – 16, 2017. Utah investigators issued a total of 45 Administrative Citations for unlicensed activity or activity beyond the scope of a license with fines totaling \$23,000 during the undercover operation.

"This year's sting operation targeted northern and southern locations where DOPL investigators saw trouble spots of unlicensed activity. The Division is proud of their achievements in identifying bad actors whose actions harm the public and take away legitimate business from professional licensees," stated Mark B. Steinagel, Director of the Utah Division of Occupational and Professional Licensing.

[Please Click Here to View the Utah Department of Commerce, Division of Occupational and Professional Licensing's Full Press Release.](#)



The Washington State Department of Labor & Industries Construction Compliance Inspectors conducted surprise sweeps on 480 active jobsites and issued 31 violations for unregistered activity. In addition, they found and referred 40 firms for audit for no workers compensation coverage or underinsured workers and found and referred 93 firms for collection action on unpaid premiums or other outstanding debt owed to the agency.

Compliance Inspectors swept throughout Washington. "We want to show people we're out there and that we take the underground economy seriously," said Dean Simpson, Chief of Compliance for the Washington State Department of Labor and Industries. "We want unregistered contractors to know we will find them and for honest contractors and consumers to know we're not ignoring this problem."



"NASCLA had 8 state members participate in this historic event across the country. The shared commitment of our state members brought awareness to unlicensed activity and spotlighted the contractor state licensing and registration boards nationally. NASCLA would like to thank all the state members for their continued partnership and national enforcement efforts to protect the public and combat unlicensed activity," stated Angie Whitaker, NASCLA Executive Director

NASCLA encourages consumers when looking for a construction contractor to:

- Verify the contractor is actively licensed; always hire a licensed contractor
- Get 2-3 estimates and don't automatically accept the lowest bid
- Check at least 3 references
- Require a written contract
- Don't make a large down payment; make payments as work is completed
- Monitor the job in progress
- Don't make the final payment until the job is complete
- Keep all paperwork related to your job

The association would like to reinforce the message to consumers always *Hire a Licensed Contractor and Verify Your Contractor is Licensed*. To review our consumer awareness information, please visit our website located www.nascla.org/?page=ConsumerReferenceLib. To verify your contractor is licensed and in good standing with the state contractor board, please visit our website located at www.nascla.org/?page=LicensingInfo or contact your local state contractor licensing board for state specific information.

For more information on NASCLA, please visit our website at www.nascla.org or contact the association office at (623) 587-9354.