



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 2018 NATIONAL COORDINATED ENFORCEMENT EFFORT
THE OPERATION INCLUDED 10 STATE MEMBERS ACROSS THE COUNTRY, TARGETING UNLICENSED CONTRACTORS

PHOENIX, AZ – JUNE 28, 2018

The National Association of State Contractors Licensing Agencies NASCLA participated in a national coordinated enforcement effort the weeks of June 4 – 22, 2018 which included 10 NASCLA State Members who took part in this event across the country. The states that participated were Arizona, California, Florida, Mississippi, Nevada, 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 4 – 22, 2018, NASCLA State Members reported a total of 779 that were found non-compliant with state licensing requirements. Administrative citations, criminal notices, legal actions, additional investigations, and more have been issued by the state contractor licensing agencies. The following state statistics were reported by the NASCLA State Members based on their national coordinated enforcement efforts:



On Wednesday, June 13, 2018, the Arizona Registrar of Contractors (AZ ROC) concluded a 2-day, statewide enforcement effort targeting unlicensed entities performing contracting work and educating property owners on the importance of hiring only licensed contractors.

AZ ROC participated with the National Association of State Contractors Licensing Agencies (NASCLA) in a national coordinated enforcement effort, which included 10 NASCLA State Members who took part in this event across the country. The additional states that participated are California, Florida, Mississippi, Nevada, Oregon, Rhode Island, Texas, Utah and Washington.

During the effort, AZ ROC dedicated 13 multi-person teams comprised of unlicensed and licensed investigators to make contact with contractors, unlicensed entities and property owners to increase outreach, provide education, and when necessary issue warnings or violations.

Arizona Registrar of Contractors Director, Jeff Fleetham, stated, "Arizona proudly welcomes new residents to our state each year. Some of these new residents will not be familiar with their ability to hire licensed contractors, who possess the knowledge and skills to perform the work for which they're contracting. Equally, some small businesses coming into the state and performing contracting work may not know of their need to be licensed. Our goal is to protect the public and promote quality construction. Educating the public represents a large part of reaching that goal."

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



Sixty-one suspected unlicensed contractors were identified in sting and sweep operations conducted by California's Contractors State License Board (CSLB) between June 11, 2018 and June 21. Thirty-eight received criminal notices to appear in court and 23 received administrative citations. The extended operations also led to the issuance of 51 Stop Orders to licensed and unlicensed contractors caught without workers' compensation insurance for their employees. Thirty-five citations were issued to licensed contractors and 25 cases are being prepared for referral to local district attorney offices.

"Nationwide enforcement operations are critical to reminding consumers about the importance of doing their homework before hiring people to work in and around their homes," said David Fogt, Registrar of California's Contractors State License Board. "This month's enforcement actions show that there's no shortage of people ready, willing, and able to take advantage of unsuspecting consumers, added Registrar Fogt. "Fortunately, there are some very simple steps consumers can take to protect themselves from hiring the wrong person for their home improvement job."

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



The Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation participated with the National Association of State Contractors Licensing Agencies (NASCLA) in a national coordinated enforcement effort the weeks of June 4 – 22, 2018 which included 10 NASCLA State Members who took part in this event across the country. The additional states that participated were Arizona, California, Mississippi, Nevada, Oregon, Rhode Island, Texas, Utah and Washington.

The Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation (DBPR) licenses and regulates more than one million Florida businesses and professionals, from real estate agents and veterinarians to contractors and cosmetologists. Protecting the public from unlicensed activity is one of DBPR's top priorities. DBPR regularly performs "sweeps" of regulated businesses and professionals to ensure they are working within the constraints of their licensees.

On June 19, the Division of Regulation concluded a statewide sweep targeting unlicensed construction and electrical contractors. The sweep encompassed nine counties and netted a total of 111 unannounced site visits with 134 license checks of construction and electrical contractors. The sweep focused on areas which were impacted by Hurricane Irma. Two cases were opened for unlicensed activity and one additional violation was noted.

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



The Mississippi State Board of Contractors filed complaints against 42 contractors for working without a license as part of a national enforcement effort to combat unlicensed construction activity conducted from June 4 – 22, 2018. The nationwide effort was coordinated by the National Association of State Contractors Licensing Agencies (NASCLA).

In Mississippi, enforcement staff visited more than 380 jobsites, filed 42 complaints and are investigating an additional 111 cases, announced MSBOC Executive Director Stephanie Lee. "Participation in the national effort highlights the work performed by enforcement officers on a daily basis. It also emphasizes the important role contractor licensing plays in ensuring public safety and consumer protection," said Lee.

Contractors must hold a Mississippi contractor's license in order to perform most work on homes and commercial structures. Licensing protects public health, safety and welfare by ensuring contractors meet minimum standards and are properly insured to cover liability and worker's compensation claims.

[Please Click Here to View the Mississippi State Board of Contractors' Full Press Release.](#)



Between June 1 and June 22, 2018, the Nevada State Contractors Board’s Special Investigations Unit conducted two stings against unlicensed contractors in Las Vegas and Reno, in addition to proactively sweeping neighborhoods for unlicensed activities in Nevada’s communities and investigating consumer leads into unlicensed activities. These enforcement efforts resulted in 70 investigations opened into unlicensed contracting and advertising activities, violations of Nevada Revised Statutes 624.700 and 624.720, of which 13 were found to be invalid. The Board issued a total of 20 criminal citations, 16 Cease and Desist Orders, submitted 11 cases to respective district attorney’s offices, and issued one administrative citation. The remaining cases are pending submission for prosecution.

Combating unlicensed contracting activities is a daily part of NSCB’s operations and supports the Board’s mission to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public while upholding the integrity of the construction industry. June’s efforts supported a national collaboration to raise awareness of the dangers posed by unlicensed contracting and the prevalence of it in every states’ communities.

“Every day we learn of homeowners who have suffered significant loss, hardship, or damage to their homes after placing their trust in an unlicensed contractor who took advantage of them,” stated NSCB Executive Officer Margi A. Grein. “The protections offered by the Board become limited when unlicensed contractors are involved. We value opportunities to join states across the nation in expressing the importance of verifying contractors’ license credentials before hiring them because it brings our message one step closer to protecting the next homeowner from becoming harmed. Public protection is the cornerstone of our agency and we take seriously our responsibility to empower the public with tools and information to keep them safe.”

[Please Click Here to View the Nevada State Contractors Board’s Full Press Release.](#)



The Oregon Construction Contractor Board (CCB) found more than a dozen unlicensed contractors and other alleged violations of contracting regulations during unannounced visits to 157 job sites earlier this month. The “sweep” was part of a multistate action targeting the construction industry.

In Oregon, the CCB concentrated its investigators at job sites along the northern Oregon Coast from Newport to Astoria. Oregon joined nine other states in the broader action coordinated by the National Association of State Contractor Licensing Agencies (NASCLA).

The largest number of Oregon’s 32 alleged violations involved people working on home improvement projects without a CCB contractor license, including contractors that hired unlicensed subcontractors or worked on homes built prior to 1978 without the required Lead-Based Paint Renovation license.

“These concentrated enforcement efforts highlight the work our individual field investigators do every day in an effort to protect consumers from unlicensed contractors and to level the playing field for legitimate contractors,” Lead Investigator Eric McLaughlin said.

[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) throughout the month of June.

The result of this enhanced enforcement activity was the visitation of some 45 construction sites in the state of Rhode Island. In checking and verifying contractor's registrations for both residential and commercial structures, 10 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 10 violations issued, 6 were for being non-registered contractors and 4 were for hiring sub-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 Senior State Building Code Official, Steven Gianlorenzo. "We've had home owners and registered contractors express their appreciation for the continued due diligence of the board's verification of registrations throughout the various construction sites in the state of Rhode Island."

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



The Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR), in coordination with the National Association of State Contractors Licensing Agencies (NASCLA), participated in a national coordinated enforcement effort the weeks of June 4 – 22, 2018. The other participating states were Arizona, California, Florida, Mississippi, Nevada, Oregon, Rhode Island, Utah and Washington.

In Texas, TDLR's enforcement team conducted a sting operation in the Houston area during the week of June 4th. A total of 48 cases will be opened against unlicensed individuals for offering to perform work that required licensure in the AC and Electrical industries. In addition, TDLR's regulatory program management (RPM) division performed a 3-day electrical license sweep in three different Texas cities. The RPM investigators visited numerous job sites and checked more than 220 individuals and found 11 had expired licenses.

"The mission at the TDLR is to earn the trust of Texans by delivering innovative regulatory solutions for our licensees," said Brian E. Francis, TDLR Executive Director. "The NASCLA National Coordinated Enforcement Effort provided a great opportunity to increase awareness and educate the public on the risks of hiring someone who is unlicensed. These efforts protect consumers and ensure a fair level playing field for licensed contractors."

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

[Please Click Here to View the Media Coverage by CBS Affiliate KHOU.](#)



The Utah Department of Commerce announced today that the Utah Division of Occupational and Professional Licensing completed a 2-week statewide sting investigation to target fraudulent construction activity. Utah's undercover investigation was part of a national effort by members of the National Association of State Contractors Licensing Agencies (NASCLA). NASCLA members who participated from June 4 – 22, 2018 were Arizona, California, Florida, Mississippi, Nevada, Oregon, Rhode Island, Texas, Utah, and Washington. Utah investigators issued a total of 2 Criminal cases and 94 Administrative Citations for unlicensed activity or activity beyond the scope of a license during the undercover operation.

"This year's sting operation sent investigators across the Beehive state to make sure unlicensed activity whether in urban or rural areas was addressed to protect the public," stated Mark B. Steinagel, Director of the Utah Division of Occupational and Professional Licensing. "The Utah Division of Occupational and Professional Licensing takes all forms of fraud seriously as it harms legitimate licensed professionals, Utah businesses, consumers and our state economy."

DOPL investigators were dispersed statewide to proactively investigate unlicensed activity on construction sites. This year, the Division's investigative team saw an increase over 2017's sting with 45 citations issued for unlawful activity.

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



Surprise inspection sweeps for unregistered contractors in Washington state resulted in nearly 50 citations in 3 days.

Inspectors with the Washington State Department of Labor & Industries (L&I) discovered the violations during unannounced visits to 636 construction sites throughout the state from June 12th to 14th.

L&I contractor compliance inspectors conducted the sweeps as part of a national coordinated enforcement effort to highlight the battle against illegal contracting in construction. Other participating states were Arizona, California, Florida, Mississippi, Nevada, Oregon, Rhode Island, Texas and Utah. The National Association of State Contractors Licensing Agencies (NASCLA), made up of state agencies that regulate construction contractors, coordinated the June campaign.

"As we head into the height of the summer remodeling season, L&I is urging consumers to hire registered contractors," said Dean Simpson, the department's contractor compliance chief. "While most contractors are following the rules, our recent sweeps show that there are some out there who are breaking the law. Hiring unregistered contractors puts your project dreams and your dollars at risk."

[Please Click Here to View the Washington State Department of Labor & Industries Full Press Release.](#)



“The National Association of State Contractors Licensing Agencies (NASCLA) coordinated a national enforcement movement during the weeks of June 4 – 22, 2018. NASCLA had 10 state members participate in this historic event across the country. The goal of this operation was to elevate consumer protection and deter illegal construction practices. 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.