



Oregon Construction Contractors Board
201 High St SE
Suite 600
Salem, OR 97301

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Leslie Culpepper, 503-934-2195

CCB Sweeps Oregon Coast for Unlicensed Contractors

Salem – The state Construction Contractors Board is investigating 43 potential violations after investigators visited 230 job sites looking for unlicensed contractors. This Oregon sweep was a part of a joint effort taking place over many states, coordinated by NASCLA (National Association of State Contractor Licensing Agencies). State licensing agencies associated with NASCLA all conducted their own sweeps at this time.

During the sweeps event, CCB Field Investigators from around the state acted as one team to saturate targeted areas in a coordinated approach to discover unlicensed contractor activity. CCB sweeps occur multiple times a year in different regions to show strong presence in the field and act as a deterrent for illegal activities.

The findings:

- One-third of the 43 cases allege that people were working without a contractor's license.
- Another four cases allege contractors were working on homes built before 1978 without the proper license for handling lead-based paint.
- Other charges range from lacking workers' compensation insurance to hiring an unlicensed subcontractor.

As many as seven field investigators randomly visited job sites in different sections of the state, including areas in Southern Oregon and Northern Oregon. Salem CCB staff will now decide whether to issue warnings or fines based on the facts of the case and whether it is a first-time violation.

A typical first-offense penalty for working without a license is \$1,000 with subsequent violations resulting in fines of up to \$5,000.

"CCB's most recent sweeps in southern Oregon and the Portland metro area demonstrate the importance of CCB's field enforcement program," said Chris Huntington, CCB Administrator. "These targeted sweeps supplement the agency's ongoing statewide field investigation program, which acts as our first line of defense in protecting consumers and supporting licensed contractors."

Who Needs a CCB License?

Anyone who repairs or remodels, as well as those who build new homes or businesses, must be licensed with the CCB. Contractors working on homes built before 1978 need special licensing and training to handle lead-based paint.

CCB's Message: Check the License

CCB encourages all homeowners to check their contractor's license before starting a home improvement project. Licensed contractors have a bond and insurance that offer some financial protections to the public. Also, homeowners may be able to get help from the CCB to resolve construction-related disputes if they use properly licensed contractors.

Consumers can check a contractor's CCB license online at <http://search.ccb.state.or.us/search/>

Contractors and consumers can report unlicensed contractors and other illegal activity or verify licenses on the CCB's website. Or, call 503-378-4621 to verify a license.

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About the CCB

The CCB is the state agency licensing over 42,000 contractors. Anyone who is paid to repair, improve or build a home must be licensed. Learn more about how to have a successful project at www.oregon.gov/ccb.