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**PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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NASCLA ANNOUNCES 2022 NATIONAL COORDINATED ENFORCEMENT EFFORT
THE OPERATION INCLUDED 12 STATE MEMBERS ACROSS THE COUNTRY, TARGETING UNLICENSED CONTRACTORS

PHOENIX, AZ – JUNE 30, 2022

The National Association of State Contractors Licensing Agencies (NASCLA) synchronized a national coordinated enforcement effort during the weeks of June 6 – 24, 2022. There were 12 NASCLA State Members who took part in this event across the country including: Arizona, California, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Florida, Mississippi, Nevada, North Carolina (2), Oregon, Texas, and Utah.

The national coordinated enforcement effort focused on elevating the regulatory agency's 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 and tradespeople. The 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 6 – 24, 2022, NASCLA State Members reported a total of **775** cases that were 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 regulatory agency statistics were reported by the NASCLA State Members based on their national coordinated enforcement efforts:



On Tuesday, June 7, 2022, 30 investigators from the [Arizona Registrar of Contractors \(AZ ROC\)](#) participated in a statewide effort intended to combat illegal unlicensed construction activity and to promote quality construction performed by licensed Arizona contractors.

The recent enforcement effort was part of a nationwide operation planned in coordination with the National Association of State Contractors Licensing Agencies (NASCLA) and targeted Phoenix, Tucson, Kingman, Lake Havasu, Flagstaff, Prescott, Show Low, Yuma, Sierra Vista, and Globe, as well as some surrounding rural areas. There were

15 teams, each composed of two investigators, who performed enforcement patrols in an attempt to curb unlicensed activity and to also educate the public about the importance of only hiring licensed contractors for remodeling or home repair projects, yielding 265 distinct interactions.

In total, the 15 teams made contact with 25 unlicensed entities, opening 22 cases which resulted in the Agency issuing warnings for Contracting Without a License, a Class 1 Misdemeanor in Arizona, and issuing one Cease and Desist Order. The teams also reported interactions with 190 licensed contractors. To comply with Arizona law and avoid regulatory actions, AZ ROC highly encourages unlicensed entities to apply for a contractor's license appropriate for the type of work being performed. For those uncertain about the process, the Agency offers free online Applicant Education Seminars every month in order to explain application requirements and answer questions from potential applicants in real time.

[View the Arizona Registrar of Contractors Full Press Release](#)



A series of statewide stings and sweeps conducted by the [Contractors State License Board \(CSLB\)](#) identified unlicensed activity in the California construction industry, putting consumers at risk. During the undercover sting and sweep operations 142 legal actions were taken, primarily for unlicensed and uninsured practice. One of the many ways unlicensed contractors can hurt homeowners is because they have not met minimum competency requirements, do not have a license bond, or carry workers' compensation insurance, putting consumers at risk.

"Unlicensed individuals can be dangerous for consumers," said David Fogt, CSLB Registrar.

"Unlicensed contractors have not met licensing requirements, undergone background checks and don't carry the proper insurance," Fogt said.

From June 6 – 24, 2022, CSLB partnered with local law enforcement to conduct three undercover sting operations in South Lake Tahoe, El Dorado County; Salinas, Monterey County; and in Redding, Shasta County. Undercover stings target unlicensed contractors, with investigators contacting the suspects through their advertisements.

The enforcement actions were part of a nationwide effort coordinated by the National Association of State Contractors Licensing Agencies (NASCLA) designed to make consumers aware of the importance of hiring licensed contractors and the risks of using unlicensed operators.

[View the California Contractors State License Board's Full Press Release](#)



The [Connecticut Department of Consumer Protection](#) participated in its first National Coordinated Enforcement Effort with multiple state members of the National Association of State Contractors Licensing Agencies (NASCLA). During the weeks of June 6 – 24, 2022, the department focused its enforcement and outreach efforts on homemaker and companion agencies.

The department reviewed [Homemaker Companion Agencies'](#) advertisements for compliance with the Homemaker Companion Act, Chapter 400o of the Connecticut General Statutes. Over 100 active HCAs were identified for this enforcement audit.

Current research of the HCA's advertising finds approximately 40 non-compliant homemaker and companion agencies.

Violations include failure to provide the HCA registration number on websites, offering medical services, to include skilled memory care and assisted living services.



The [District of Columbia Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs \(DCRA\)](#) protects the health, safety, economic interests and quality of life of residents, businesses and visitors in the District of Columbia by ensuring code compliance and regulating business. DCRA is responsible for regulating construction and business activity in the District of Columbia. The agency issues construction permits after reviews of construction documents to ensure compliance with

building codes and zoning regulations. Construction activity, buildings, and rental housing establishments are inspected, and housing code violations are abated, if necessary. To protect consumers, DCRA issues business and professional licenses, registers corporations, inspects weighing and measuring devices used for monetary profit, and issues special events permits.

During the weeks of June 6 – 24, 2022, DCRA was part of a national coordinated enforcement effort by state members of the National Association of State Contractors Licensing Agencies (NASCLA) to target fraudulent construction activity. The DCRA conducted multiple unannounced site visits, resulting in filed complaints, and the opening of many investigations on cases.



The [Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation \(DBPR\)](#) participated with the National Association of State Contractors Licensing Agencies (NASCLA) in a national coordinated enforcement effort the weeks of June 6 – 24, 2022, which included multiple NASCLA state members who took part in this event across the country.

“I commend the Florida DBPR Division of Regulation’s enforcement efforts in stopping unlicensed contractors across the state of Florida, along with participating state members,” said DBPR Secretary Melanie S. Griffin. “Thank you to NASCLA for coordinating this effort to join together in promoting public protection and deterring illegal construction activity.”

DBPR licenses and regulates nearly 1.6 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.

From June 6 – 24, 2022, the Division of Regulation conducted a statewide sweep targeting unlicensed construction and electrical contractors. The sweeps were performed by 10 regional field offices and netted a total of 250 unannounced site visits with 751 license checks of construction and electrical contractors.

[View the Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation’s Full Press Release](#)



The [Mississippi State Board of Contractors \(MSBOC\)](#) participated in a national coordinated enforcement effort the weeks of June 6 – 24, 2022 aimed at deterring illegal, unlicensed activity. MSBOC’s involvement represented one of multiple states participating in coordination with the National Association of Contractor Licensing Agencies (NASCLA). During the 3-week time period, MSBOC Investigators visited more than 511 jobsites for compliance, filed 46 complaints and are still investigating an additional 57 cases.

MSBOC is the state agency responsible for licensing and regulating construction contractors in Mississippi. “Protecting the public from unscrupulous contractors is one of MSBOC’s top priorities,” explains MSBOC’s Executive Director Stephanie 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.

[View the Mississippi State Board of Contractors’ Full Press Release](#)



In a coordinated effort with the National Association of State Contractors Licensing Agencies (NASCLA), the [Nevada State Contractors Board's \(NSCB\)](#) Enforcement Division engaged in a multi-state effort to combat individuals unlawfully performing construction related activities in the State of Nevada. NSCB efforts focused on those advertising without a license (NRS 624.720) and contracting without a license (NRS 624.700).

"Over the past 3 weeks, the Nevada State Contractors Board concentrated investigative efforts on a national coordinated enforcement effort focused on unlicensed contractors," stated NSCB Executive Officer Margi Grein. "From June 6 – 24, 2022, we conducted 3 sting operations and dozens of site visits. Similar operations were occurring at the same time in multiple states through the synchronization of NASCLA."

[View the Nevada State Contractors Board Full Press Release](#)



During the weeks of June 6 – 24, 2022, the National Association of State Contractors Licensing Agencies (NASCLA) brought together NASCLA State Members from across the country in a national coordinated enforcement effort. While formal efforts were not conducted by the [North Carolina State Board of Examiners of Electrical Contractors](#), during these 3 weeks, the agency did receive 26 complaints by consumers alleging charges against applicants, non-licensees, licensees, or qualified individuals with the Board.

"Our mission is to protect the life, health and property of the public through examination of applicants, education of licensees and discipline of individuals to promote quality electrical contracting in accordance with the North Carolina General Statutes," said Tim Norman, Executive Director of the North Carolina State Board of Examiners of Electrical Contractors. "The efforts made by NASCLA and its members to support the licensing of contractors and tradesmen is extremely important to the consumer, to increase awareness of the potential risks of hiring unlicensed and to deter illegal construction activity."



The [North Carolina Licensing Board for General Contractors \(NCLBGC\)](#) has launched a statewide public awareness campaign called "Your Home is in Your Hands," in coordination with a month-long national enforcement effort by the National Association of State Contractors Licensing Agencies (NASCLA). The Your Home is in Your Hands campaign focuses on informing citizens when their remodeling/building projects require a licensed general contractor and showing real-world examples of unlicensed contractors scamming homeowners. Through this campaign, the NCLBGC aims to educate homeowners on how to avoid scams, work well with general contractors, and know when a project is required, by law, to have a licensed contractor.

"The NCLBGC is pleased to join with NASCLA and enforcement agencies from across the United States during the month of June in a coordinated effort to raise consumer awareness and shine a bright light on contractors who are not operating in full compliance with the law," Frank Wiesner, Executive Director, NCLBGC explained. "The Your Home is in Your Hands campaign aims to enhance consumer awareness and educate on the importance of hiring licensed contractors. When a citizen hires an unlicensed contractor and gets scammed, they may be putting themselves at great financial risk," he added.

[View the North Carolina Licensing Board for General Contractors Full Press Release](#)



The [Oregon 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 the National Association of State Contractor Licensing Agencies (NASCLA). State licensing agencies associated 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.

“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.”

[View the Oregon Construction Contractors Board Full Press Release](#)



The Texas consumers hiring electricians and air conditioning and refrigeration contractors should always check to make sure their service providers are licensed by the [Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation \(TDLR\)](#).

“Hiring an unlicensed electrician or air conditioning contractor can put you and your family at great risk,” said TDLR Executive Director Mike Arismendez Jr. “Licensed service providers have completed training and passed examinations that cover regulations and building codes designed to protect health and safety. They’ve also had criminal background checks and have liability insurance.”

TDLR enforcement investigators ran a one-week undercover sting in the San Antonio area as part of a national enforcement effort in June that was coordinated by the National Association of State Contractors Licensing Agencies (NASCLA).

During the sting, TDLR investigators contacted people who advertised electrical and air conditioning services in local newspapers or on social media and did not include license information in the ads as they’re required to do by state law. Investigators have filed 10 enforcement cases against unlicensed electricians and air conditioning contractors who offered to perform unlicensed work during the sting.

[View the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation’s Full Press Release](#)



The [Utah Division of Occupational and Professional Licensing \(DOPL\)](#) is 1 of 7 agencies within the Utah Department of Commerce. DOPL's mission is twofold: protect the public and enhance commerce through licensing and regulation. To fulfill its responsibilities, DOPL's efforts are organized into two primary functions: licensing and investigations. DOPL's Bureau of Investigations is comprised of approximately 30 investigators who are trained and experienced in investigative procedures. Many of DOPL's investigators are retired law enforcement officers from jurisdictions throughout the state and country. DOPL's investigators and in-house legal counsel work closely with the Utah Attorney General's Office, which provides DOPL with legal assistance for licensure and investigative functions. During the weeks of June 6 – 24, 2022, DOPL participated in a national coordinated enforcement effort along with other state members of the National Association of State Contractors Licensing Agencies (NASCLA).

There were 112 in both complaints received and cases opened, with 3 disciplinary actions, 47 number of unlicensed found, 2 legal actions, 1 criminal notice, and 69 cases closed.



“This year’s National Coordinated Enforcement Effort took place during the weeks of June 6 – 24, 2022 and had 12 state members participate. This program continues to grow as NASCLA, and its state members, are committed to tackling illegal construction practices across the country, so the playing field is leveled for all professionally licensed contractors who follow state laws, rules, and regulations. NASCLA would like to express gratitude to all the state members for their continued partnership and national enforcement efforts to safeguard the public and prevent unlicensed activity,” stated Angie Whitaker, CAE, 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 agency 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.