

Contact: Art Nadler, Public Information Officer (702) 486-1100 x1139 or (775) 688-1141 x1139

<u>NSCB Investigators Cite Five Unlicensed Contractors</u> <u>In Las Vegas Sting Operation</u>

Nevada State Contractors Board investigators conducted a sting operation on April 26, 2007, in the Warm Springs and Spencer area of Las Vegas inside Frontier Estates where five unlicensed contractors were cites for *contracting without a license*.

Jose Mauricio Valle, dba J & J Landscaping, landscaping; Luis Enrique Chevez, painting; Federico Agustin-Santiago, dba FAS Lawn Maintenance, landscaping; Jesus Castellanos-Aguero, dba Castellanos Painting, painting; and Lee Ralph Pallanes, dba 59 Minute Service, installation of electrical line.

Contracting without a license in Nevada is a misdemeanor for the first offense, a gross misdemeanor for the second offense and a Class E felony for the third offense.

Homeowners should not use unlicensed contractors because their work is generally poor quality, they are often uninsured and may not maintain workman's compensation coverage for their employees, and the homeowner may be liable for all injuries to workers. Homeowners who use unlicensed contractors are not eligible for the Residential Recovery Fund, and by law their contracts are null and void.

Consumers can check whether a contractor is licensed by calling: (702) 486-1100 in Southern Nevada, or (775) 688-1141 in Northern Nevada. License checks can also be conducted on the NSCB website at: <u>www.nscb.state.nv.us</u>

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