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

## California Contractors Board Stings Illegal Electrical Repair Company Also Operating In Nevada

The California Contractors State License Board conducted statewide sting operations on April 19, 2007, in which seven unlicensed contractors operating under the names of "USA Services," "American Plumbing & Electric," "ASAP Electric," "59 Minute Service," and "Citywide Electric" were arrested on misdemeanor charges for contracting without a license and/or being an unregistered salesperson in the state of California.

**Note:** ASAP Electric and Citywide Electric in California are <u>not</u> associated with any Nevada contractors with similar names.

The Nevada State Contractors Board issued a Homeowners Alert! warning for the Southern Nevada area in March on "USA Plumbing & Electrical," a revoked licensed contractor, that is also advertising in local telephone directories under the names of "59 Minute Services," "1 Hour Response," and "USA Home Services."

The Nevada State Contractors Board revoked USA Plumbing & Electrical's license on Feb. 21, 2007, for violations of Nevada Revised Statue 624 for

misrepresentation involving need for service, replacement parts, equipment or repairs; misrepresentation of a material fact; a fraudulent or deceitful act; contracting on a name not on the license; failure to include the company name and license number in an advertisement, and failure to establish financial responsibility.

The Nevada State Contractors Board cited Vladimir Karkmazyan, dba USA Plumbing & Electrical, in a March sting operation for *contracting without a license* on a bid to do electrical wiring installation. Lee Ralph Pallanes, dba 59 Minute Service, was also cited in April for *contracting without a license* on an electrical wiring installation bid.

The companies advertise in the Las Vegas telephone books claiming low fees and service charges.

Homeowners coming in contact with any of these unlicensed companies should contact the NSCB, Special Investigations Unit, at: (702) 486-1100, ext. 1144.

The NSCB urges the public to hire only licensed contractors in good standing with the Board. Consumers can verify contractors' licenses and obtain helpful tips for working with contractors by calling (775) 688-1141 in Northern Nevada, or 702) 486-1100 in Southern Nevada. Licenses can be verified 24 hours a day by logging on to www.nscb.state.nv.us.