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Two Unlicensed Contractors Stung On Their Craig's List Ads

As more and more unlicensed contractors tap Craig's List to advertise their businesses, the Nevada State Contractors Board has increased its criminal investigations into this resource.

Orlando J. DeMaria recently submitted a \$4,500 painting bid to a Reno undercover Nevada State Contractors Board investigator. DeMaria, who had listed his handyman services on Craig's List, was issued a criminal citation for *contracting without a license*.

John Porcello, dba J's Home Repair Service, was issued a criminal citation for *contracting without a license*. Porcello provided an electrical bid for \$200. He was also advertising on Craig's List that he could do remodeling, tree service, landscaping, plumbing, roofing and painting.

Both unlicensed contractors were encouraged to become properly licensed contractors.

"Consumers should be aware that the Nevada State Contractors Board cannot offer any assistance, if their unsatisfactory work is performed by an unlicensed contractor," said Margi Grein, Executive Officer of the Nevada State Contractors Board.

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“These stings are done in an effort to free our neighborhoods of unlicensed contractors, who prey on innocent consumers,” Grein added. “Unlicensed contractors can cost consumers thousands of dollars. They carry no insurance, are not bonded and have not met any standards of the trade they may be performing,”

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 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: **www.nscb.state.nv.us**

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