



# NSCB News Release



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## **CONTRACTORS BOARD URGES PROACTIVE PLANNING FOR FIRE SEASON & RELATED DISASTERS**

***Henderson & Reno, Nev.*** – As summer temperatures soar, the Nevada State Contractors Board urges the state’s residents to prepare for the possibility of wildfire damage to their property. As homeowners develop a recovery plan, it is important to include an emergency contact list of licensed contractors in the trades of roofing, plumbing, electrical, carpentry, among others.

The Board recommends researching at least three licensed contractors in each identified trade, allowing for up to three bids when services are needed. Each contractors’ license should be verified on the Board’s website: [www.nscb.nv.gov](http://www.nscb.nv.gov) to ensure it is active and in good standing prior to entering into a contract.

“It is only natural for property owners to want their homes returned to normal as quickly as possible following a fire or related disaster,” stated NSCB Executive Officer Margi Grein. “However, the Board knows it is during these emotionally driven, emergency times that homeowners are preyed upon the most. Having a vetted list of contractors takes away added stress and affords you the ability to hire with confidence, knowing the Board is a resource you can turn to during the course of your project.”

Only contractors properly licensed by the Board are permitted to perform most construction, repair and maintenance projects in Nevada. It is important to know a contractor’s license is different and separate from a business license. Failure to confirm work is being done by a properly licensed contractor may result in the loss of recourse options for damaged homeowners.

Homeowners should speak with their homeowner insurance provider proactively to understand the course of actions to be taken following a disaster, including timeframes, hiring of contractors, homeowner responsibilities, etc.

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Following the disaster, property owners need to be leery of solicitations by unlicensed contractors, including those who may be licensed in states other than Nevada. By law, unlicensed contractors are prohibited from contracting for any project valued at \$1,000 or more – including labor and materials – and cannot perform work that requires a building permit or is related to electrical, heating, air conditioning plumbing, or fire safety.

State law requires all contractors to place their license numbers on all advertisements, proposals, contracts and vehicles – an immediate visual indication for homeowners. Failure to see a license number prominently on display in any of these formats is a red flag. Homeowners should also be cautious of:

- High-pressured sales tactics to sign a contract or begin work;
- Unwillingness of contractor to enter into a written agreement; and
- Demands for cash payments or large down payments prior to work being performed.

Verifying a contractor is properly licensed will ensure the homeowner has access to the Board's full investigative services and recourse options up to four years from the date the work was performed, including the Residential Recovery Fund for qualifying owners of single-family residences. The Recovery Fund may award up to \$35,000 in financial recourse to eligible homeowners damaged by a licensed contractor.

Homeowners with questions about license verification or related disaster recovery information are encouraged to contact the Board's public information office directly at (702) 486-1165.

**To report unlicensed contracting activity, call the NSCB Hotline: 702-486-1160 or 775-850-7838.**

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