



# ARIZONA REGISTRAR OF CONTRACTORS



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## News Release

# ROC Warns Homeowners to Watch Out For Home Security Scams

While many of us love Arizona's mild winter weather, the ROC warns that winter in much of Arizona is also a time to be careful of door-to-door scams. Scam artists claiming to be contractors often travel from state-to-state following either good weather or weather-caused disasters.

As reported by the Surprise Police Department, local media, and the Board of Technical Registration; it appears a home security scam may have recently joined in this door-to-door approach.<sup>1234</sup> In these scams, the scammer targets homes with posted signs stating the house is protected by an alarm company. The scammer tells the homeowner that their security account has been taken over by a different alarm company and that homeowner needs to sign new paperwork. Unfortunately, the new paperwork is actually a new contract with a separate home security company and the homeowner ends up having to pay for two separate home security contracts.

Property owners should be aware of the following tips before hiring someone who claims to be a contractor.

- Reviewing the contractor's license record at (<http://www.azroc.gov/forms/contractorsearch.html>).
- Verifying that the person is an authorized representative of the licensed contractor by calling the contractor's phone number listed on the ROC license record.
- Asking for written estimates from at least three contractors.
- Requesting a list of references and checking them.
- Making sure the scope of the project, the price, the responsibility to obtain building permits, and any other relevant terms are spelled out in a written contract.
- Never paying in cash, making checks payable to the licensed contractor (not an individual), and not allowing payments to get ahead of the work.
- Avoiding contractors who require large upfront payments.
- Never making a hurried decision.

Other tips about hiring qualified contractors can be found at [www.azroc.gov](http://www.azroc.gov).

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/surprisepd> (see February 19, 2015 post encouraging neighborhood watch programs)

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.azfamily.com/news/local/Home-Security-Scam-292537441.html>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.abc15.com/news/region-phoenix-metro/central-phoenix/crooks-fooling-valley-homeowners-with-fake-security-system-upgrades>

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.azbo.us/uploaded/files/Reference%20Material/AZBTR-Press-Release-on-Alarm-Industry-Scams.pdf>