



ARIZONA REGISTRAR OF CONTRACTORS



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Janice Brewer, Governor

William A. Mundell, Director

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News Release

ROC Joins with the City of Phoenix to Warn Property Owners to Watch Out for Storm-Chaser Scams

Recent storms in Arizona left a trail of damaged property. Contractor scam artists, known as “Storm-Chasers”, often follow these catastrophic storms to take advantage of desperate owners with damaged property. The Registrar of Contractors is warning people to protect themselves from these scam artists who frequently solicit door-to-door and offer to do work at an unbeatable price with leftover material. These scammers often press for cash payments before beginning any work.

The ROC appreciates the Mayor, Vice-Mayor, other Council members, and Phoenix PD for helping raise awareness of the harm caused by unlicensed contractors and their scams that would harm Phoenix residents.



Property owners can protect themselves by hiring licensed contractors. Licensed contractors have passed trade exams and demonstrated adequate experience to perform the construction authorized by their license. Licensed contractors also possess insurance and bonds that provide financial protection if an accident occurs, or the work doesn't meet minimum construction standards.

Visit our website at: www.azroc.gov



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Director Mundell said, “Protecting Arizonans from unlicensed contractors and the harm they cause is a top priority for the Registrar of Contractors. This combined effort demonstrates our commitment to vigorously protect Phoenix residents from these scam artists.”



City of Phoenix

“Though we become more aware of it in the aftermath of natural disasters, criminal contractor scams are a year-round problem,” Councilman Bill Gates said. “Fortunately, there are great local resources residents can use to protect themselves from scams and ensure they find legitimate licensed and bonded contractors to repair their homes.”



City of Phoenix

“City staff at storm Recovery Information Centers heard reports from residents in storm damaged areas that were approached by people demanding cash on the spot for unspecified work on their homes,” Councilmember Kate Gallego said. “So property owners, especially those in storm damaged areas, need to be prepared and vigilant when they seek repairs.”

The Registrar of Contractors advises property owners to protect themselves by:

- 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 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.

For more information, or to request an interview with Director Mundell, contact Tyler Palmer, Chief of Staff for the Arizona Registrar of Contractors at (602) 771-6710.

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