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PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NASCLA State Members Unite Nationwide to Combat Unlicensed Contracting and Protect Consumers

ANNUAL COORDINATED ENFORCEMENT INITIATIVE HIGHLIGHTS CONSUMER PROTECTION AND CONTRACTOR LICENSING COMPLIANCE

PHOENIX, AZ – NOVEMBER 2, 2026

The National Association of State Contractors Licensing Agencies (NASCLA) successfully concluded its 2026 National Coordinated Enforcement Effort, held October 12–23, 2026. This annual initiative brought together 15 participating regulatory agencies from across the country, reinforcing their shared commitment to protecting consumers, combating unlicensed contracting activity, and promoting compliance with contractor licensing laws.

Participating agencies included Alabama, Arizona, California, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Florida, Michigan, Mississippi, Nevada, North Carolina (2), Ohio, Oregon, Utah, and Washington.

Throughout the coordinated initiative, NASCLA State Members conducted targeted enforcement operations, investigated potential licensing violations, and engaged in consumer education and outreach activities. While individual enforcement strategies varied by jurisdiction, each participating agency contributed to the collective goal of strengthening regulatory oversight, promoting accountability, and supporting a fair construction marketplace for properly licensed professionals.

As part of the 2026 National Coordinated Enforcement Effort, participating NASCLA State Members reported more than 3,900 jobsite and residential visits nationwide, identifying potential violations of state contractor licensing laws and taking enforcement actions ranging from administrative citations and cease-and-desist orders to criminal referrals, stop-work orders, and additional investigations. Agencies also conducted licensing audits, compliance checks, and consumer education initiatives, reinforcing their shared commitment to protecting the public.

This year's effort also highlighted the important role regulatory agencies play in communities recovering from severe weather. In Alabama and Arizona, investigators conducted storm-recovery outreach, monitored construction and repair activities, and provided homeowners with information about hiring properly licensed contractors. These efforts demonstrate how enforcement and education work together to protect consumers, particularly during times when homeowners may be more vulnerable to unlicensed contracting activity.

Beyond the activities conducted during this coordinated initiative, the effort serves as an opportunity to bring national attention to the important work state contractor licensing agencies perform year-round. Through continued collaboration, public awareness, and enforcement of state licensing requirements, NASCLA and its State Members remain committed to safeguarding consumers and discouraging unlawful contracting practices.

The following summaries were provided by participating NASCLA State Members as part of the 2026 National Coordinated Enforcement Effort.

The Alabama Home Builders Licensure Board (HBLB) conducted site visits to Alabama's hardest hit counties during the aftermath of Hurricane Isaias in a nationally coordinated enforcement effort with the National Association of State Contractors Licensing Agencies (NASCLA) October 12 – 23, 2026. Each year, this initiative is an opportunity for HBLB to educate homeowners on the importance of hiring licensed homebuilders as well as reinforce HBLB's commitment to public safety, health and the integrity of local economies. This year's coordinated enforcement effort came at a critical time as Alabamians were still recovering from the damage of Hurricane Isaias.

"Participation in this year's enforcement effort took on even more significance, as it coincided with our response to help Alabama communities impacted by Hurricane Isaias," said Executive Director Seth Gowan. "Over the two-week enforcement blitz, Board investigators visited approximately 15 counties impacted by the storm. And in the second week, we concentrated our effort in Conecuh, Escambia and Monroe counties with the most significant damage to homes. We will continue to have a presence over the next several months to deter unlicensed builders and help fellow Alabamians recover and rebuild," added Gowan. During the enforcement effort, HBLB investigators went door to door in affected communities to give homeowners information about hiring licensed professionals.

View the Alabama Home Builders Licensure Board's Full Press Release

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The Arizona Registrar of Contractors (AZ ROC) partnered with the National Association of State Contractors Licensing Agencies (NASCLA) for a national enforcement effort from October 12 to 23, 2026. With numerous NASCLA State Members participating, this initiative focused on protecting consumers and promoting fair competition by ensuring only licensed contractors are on the job.

Between, Monday, October 20th and Thursday, October 22nd, about eight (8) Investigators and one (1) Assistant Chief of Investigations from the Arizona Registrar of Contractors (AZ ROC) participated in a statewide effort intended to combat unlicensed construction activity and provide education and outreach to support the agency's mission of promoting quality construction performed by licensed Arizona contractors.

AZ ROC investigators patrolled cities and towns throughout Mohave and Pima Counties. Field operations focused on checking active residential and commercial job sites and supply houses. Additionally, during the week of October 28th, coordinated outreach was conducted in the Heber-Overgaard region, emphasizing post-flood recovery education, license compliance verification and collaboration with local jurisdictions. The effort resulted in 18 unlicensed entity contacts, 4 cease and desist orders issued of which two included a $2,500 fine, and 17 warning letters issued for compliance violations.

View the Full Press Release for the Arizona Registrar of Contractors

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The California Contractors State License Board (CSLB) recently completed a combined 39 separate stings and sweeps resulting in 73 enforcement actions across the state, part of a coordinated, multi-state initiative organized by the National Association of State Contractors Licensing Agencies (NASCLA). California was one of 15 states that participated in the effort to crack down on unlicensed activity and protect consumers.

CSLB partnered with local law enforcement to conduct enforcement operations, known as stings and sweeps, to combat unlicensed activity and address compliance. Unlicensed individuals often seek to take advantage of consumers by offering services without the legally required licenses or workers' compensation insurance, leaving homeowners responsible for any accidents or damages that occur.

"Unlicensed activity often crosses state lines and NASCLA's coordinated effort sends a unified message about the consequences and risks of unlicensed activity," said CSLB Registrar David Fogt. "CSLB will continue to advance consumer protection and we are grateful for our partners who share in our mission to protect consumers."

View the Full Press Release for the California Contractors State License Board

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Between October 13 – 19, 2026, the Connecticut Department of Consumer Protection Occupational Licensing Enforcement Unit conducted an audit of 1,009 credentials across six licensing boards. Credentials were randomly selected for review as part of the 2026 National Association of State Contractors Licensing Agencies (NASCLA) coordinated enforcement effort.

Out of the 1009 credentials reviewed, investigators found eight credentials that were fraudulently obtained. As a result, the agency promptly deactivated the eight credentials and opened an enforcement case for each one. DCP will continue to review the circumstances surrounding these findings and pursue appropriate enforcement action where warranted. The eight cases are currently open and under investigation.

The Department remains committed to protecting Connecticut consumers, maintaining the integrity of its occupational licensing system, and holding individuals accountable when violations of occupational licensing laws are identified.

View the More Information about Filing a Complaint with the Connecticut Department of Consumer Protection

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During the weeks of October 12 – 23, 2026, the District of Columbia Department of Licensing and Consumer Protection (DLCP) participated in a nationwide coordinated enforcement initiative led by the National Association of State Contractors Licensing Agencies (NASCLA) to address fraudulent construction activity. While DLCP did not conduct formal enforcement actions, the agency received and documented no customer complaints related to fraudulent practices and expired documentation.

"Being a licensed contractor is essential to ensuring quality, safety, and accountability in every project," said Kimberly Troxler, Industrial Trades Program Specialist for the DC Department of Licensing and Consumer Protection. "Licensed contractors adhere to the industry standards and regulations designed to protect consumers, workers, and communities, and they bring the expertise needed to uphold public trust and safety in construction. We urge consumers to prioritize hiring licensed professionals for all construction projects, whether residential or commercial, to ensure a secure and compliant outcome."

View the More Information about Filing a Complaint with the D.C. Department of Licensing and Consumer Protection

The Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation (DBPR) completed a two-week enforcement and outreach initiative in partnership with the National Association of State Contractors Licensing Agencies (NASCLA) from October 12 – 23, 2026. The initiative focused on protecting consumers, promoting compliance with contractor licensing laws and supporting fair competition for licensed professionals.

"Unlicensed contracting puts Floridians' safety and hard-earned money at risk and undercuts the licensed professionals who follow the law," said DBPR Secretary Melanie S. Griffin. "DBPR will continue to investigate unlicensed activity and take enforcement action against those who violate Florida's licensing laws. Our work with NASCLA sends a clear message: protecting consumers and holding violators accountable remain priorities across Florida."

DBPR's Division of Regulation coordinated operations through its offices in Fort Myers, Orlando, West Palm Beach, Jacksonville, Fort Lauderdale, Miami, Pensacola, Tallahassee, Tampa and Gainesville. Investigators conducted sweeps, site visits and license checks to assess compliance with Florida's licensing requirements and identify suspected unlicensed activity. The operation also included a sting as part of the Division's efforts to detect violations and hold unlicensed individuals accountable. Alongside enforcement, regional teams conducted outreach to reinforce licensing requirements, encourage consumers to verify a professional's license before hiring and explain how to report suspected unlicensed activity.

View the Full Press Release for the Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation (DBPR)

The Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs' (LARA) Bureau of Construction Codes (BCC) participated in the 2026 National Association of State Contractors Licensing Agencies (NASCLA) Coordinated Enforcement Effort, joining regulatory agencies across the country in a collaborative effort to promote licensing compliance, protect consumers, and help ensure the safety of buildings and structures.

During this year's initiative, BCC focused on verifying required licensure and licensee-to-apprentice ratios at construction job sites, conducting visits at four electrical sites and five plumbing sites throughout Michigan. BCC teams encountered more than 500 licensees across the nine sites, and all sites were found to be compliant with Michigan's electrical and plumbing ratio requirements.

"Professional licensing is an important safeguard for Michigan residents. It helps ensure that individuals performing electrical and plumbing work have the appropriate qualifications and oversight to do their jobs safely and correctly," said Andrew Brisbo, Director of the Bureau of Construction Codes. "Our participation in this national effort reinforces our commitment to protecting the public, supporting responsible contractors, and ensuring that the people building and maintaining Michigan's homes and businesses are working within the standards established to keep our communities safe."

View the Full Press Release for the Michigan Bureau of Construction Codes

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The Mississippi State Board of Contractors (MSBOC) joined the National Association of State Contractors Licensing Agencies (NASCLA) in a national coordinated enforcement effort to combat unlicensed construction activity from October 12 – 23, 2026.

During the two-week effort, MSBOC enforcement staff completed 165 jobsite compliance checks across 17 counties, from north Mississippi to the Gulf Coast. Cases involving contractors working without a Mississippi license will continue to be investigated and, where appropriate, referred to the Board for disciplinary proceedings.

"Licensing protects consumers and creates a level playing field for the honest contractors who make up most of our industry. Through this national effort, we're focusing on the unlicensed operators who put families and legitimate businesses at risk," said MSBOC Executive Director Stephanie Lee.

View the Full Press Release for the Mississippi State Board of Contractors

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The Nevada State Contractors Board (NSCB) joined states from across the nation in an undercover enforcement operation coordinated by the National Association of State Contractors Licensing Agencies (NASCLA) between October 12 – 23, 2026.

Nevada's statewide operation focused on identifying unlicensed contractors and addressing illegal construction activities. The NSCB's enforcement efforts included four undercover operations where 12 unlicensed contractors unlawfully bid work requiring a contractor's license, resulting in criminal cases being opened by NSCB. The unlicensed contractors identified offered bids ranging from $6,000 to $100,000 for a garage conversion, paint, drywall, plumbing, electrical, flooring, framing, HVAC and signage. The properties used as decoys were a residential property and commercial property.

The violations of NRS 624.700, leading to the filings for prosecution for Fraud and the issuance of several Administrative Citations for the alleged offenses. Throughout the entirety of the enforcement operation, the NSCB conducted a total of 45 unannounced job site visits where 406 license details were verified. As a result, the NSCB opened 42 criminal cases and issued 24 Cease and Desist Orders, 15 Administrative citations and 12 violation letters.

"We are pleased to see the same initiatives taking place across the country as we unite to send a clear message that adherence to the construction laws of our respective states is taken seriously and serve to safeguard the public from becoming financially harmed when engaging in construction projects," says Executive Officer, Dan Whitmarsh.

View the Full Press Release for the Nevada State Contractors Board

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During the week of October 12–23, 2026, the National Association of State Contractors Licensing Agencies (NASCLA) once again brought together state members from across the country for its annual National Coordinated Enforcement Effort. During this period, the North Carolina State Board of Examiners of Electrical Contractors received 10 new cases involving complaints and allegations against applicants, non-licensees, licensees, or qualified individuals under the Board's jurisdiction.

The Board continues to support and monitor areas of North Carolina previously impacted by natural disasters, helping ensure affected residents understand the importance of hiring properly licensed electrical contractors and avoiding unlicensed or fraudulent activity.

"Our mission is to protect the life, health, and property of the public through examination of applicants, education of licensees, and discipline of individuals to promote quality electrical contracting in accordance with the North Carolina General Statutes," said Tim Norman, Executive Director of the North Carolina State Board of Examiners of Electrical Contractors. "The nationwide efforts led by NASCLA and its member agencies play a critical role in raising consumer awareness, strengthening enforcement, and maintaining integrity within the construction industry."

View More Information on Filing a Complaint within the NC State Board of Examiners of Electrical Contractors

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The North Carolina Licensing Board for General Contractors participated in NASCLA's 2026 National Coordinated Enforcement Effort, reinforcing its ongoing commitment to protecting consumers and upholding contractor licensing standards throughout the state.

As part of its year-round enforcement efforts, the Board continues to investigate unlicensed contracting activity, pursue disciplinary actions, and address complaints involving violations of state licensing laws. In 2026, the Board also expanded its enforcement capabilities by adding a sixth field investigator to its team.

"For 101 years, the Board has been dedicated to protecting the health, safety, and wellbeing of North Carolina's citizens," said Anna Baird Choi, Executive Director and General Counsel. "Participating in NASCLA's coordinated enforcement efforts strengthens that mission by helping us educate consumers, promote professional accountability, and deter unlicensed activity. These partnerships play a vital role in preserving the integrity of our industry and maintaining public confidence in the contractors who meet our state's licensing standards."

View More Information on Filing a Complaint within the North Carolina Licensing Board for General Contractors

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During the weeks of October 12–23, 2026, the National Association of State Contractors Licensing Agencies (NASCLA) once again united state members from across the country for its annual National Coordinated Enforcement Effort. During this period, the Ohio Construction Industry Licensing Board (OCILB) received 10 new cases and is currently holding hearings on 3 of them involving complaints and allegations against applicants, non licensees, licensees, or qualified individuals under the Board's jurisdiction.

The Board continues to actively collaborate with municipalities, trade groups, unions, and non union organizations to spread awareness of the enforcement measures Ohio is pursuing to ensure the state remains compliant regarding construction licensing and permit required work. These partnerships help reinforce the importance of hiring properly licensed contractors and maintaining accountability within the construction industry.

The mission of the OCILB aligns with the Ohio Department of Commerce's broader mission to "promote prosperity for businesses and the state by protecting what matters most to Ohioans." Through continuous communication with consumers, contractors, professional groups, and municipal departments, the Board works to highlight the severity and potential costs of unlicensed work performed in areas where a license is legally required.

NASCLA and its partner agencies remain essential allies in ensuring that businesses and consumers are protected while promoting licensing practices that are fair, consistent, and transparent.

View More Information on Filing a Complaint within the Ohio Construction Industry Licensing Board

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The Oregon Construction Contractors Board (CCB) served 51 potential violations and served 72 final orders during this year's NASCLA's nationwide event period. In addition to this, investigators visited 337 job sites between October 12 and 23 identifying 24 additional alleged violations that are being further investigated. This was part of a joint effort taking place over many states coordinated by NASCLA (National Association of State Contractor Licensing Agencies). State licensing agencies associated with NASCLA all conducted their own efforts during this time.

During the event, CCB Field Investigators acted independently and in teams to discover unlicensed contractor activity. Efforts like this occur multiple times a year in different regions to show strong presence in the field and act as a deterrent for illegal construction activities, like working without a CCB license.

"When we find work happening that is not in regulatory compliance, it is our opportunity to educate, bring contractors into compliance, and take regulatory actions where necessary," said CCB Enforcement Manager Vena Swanson. "There are thousands of outstanding contractors that stay in compliance with Oregon law. Our goal is to find where unlicensed work is happening or where contractors are breaking the rules. Taking swift regulatory action against offenders helps protect our Oregon workers, other contractors, and homeowners. Our teams work hard to offer onsite education, ongoing support and instructions or referrals to other agencies where necessary, and the issuance of violations, fines, and suspensions where necessary to gain compliance."

View the Full Press Release for the Oregon Construction Contractors Board

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The Utah Department of Commerce's Division of Professional Licensing (DOPL) issued 49 administrative citations and over $91,000 in potential fines during a coordinated nationwide sweep targeting residential construction violations.

Between October 13 and 23, DOPL conducted 326 statewide site checks in partnership with the National Association of State Contractors Licensing Agencies (NASCLA). The annual multi-agency operation aims to protect homeowners, promote fair market competition, and hold unlicensed contractors accountable.

"A reliable marketplace requires active accountability," said Adam Watson, Assistant Director of the Division of Professional Licensing. "By actively enforcing our licensing laws, we send a clear message: Utah protects consumer investments and defends responsible, licensed contractors. We refuse to let bad actors degrade the quality and trust of our thriving construction industry."

View the Full Press Release for the Utah Department of Commerce's Division of Professional Licensing

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The [Washington Department of Labor & Industries (L&I)] participated in a nationwide coordinated enforcement effort October 12–23 to increase visibility at construction sites, identify unregistered and unlicensed activity, and protect consumers.

During focused jobsite enforcement October 20–21, L&I staff visited 350 jobsites statewide and checked compliance involving 380 construction contractors, plumbers and plumber trainees, and electricians and electrical trainees. The visits resulted in 40 infractions for unlicensed and unregistered activity and 76 referrals to other L&I business areas for issues including outstanding debts, employer audits, safety concerns and other violations.

Across the full October 12–23 coordinated enforcement period, L&I opened 159 new cases involving suspected contractor fraud and closed 71 cases. The closed cases resulted in multiple infractions and additional referrals to L&I programs as well as the Washington State Department of Revenue.

Our mission is to keep Washington safe and working, and that means being visible, checking compliance and taking action when we find problems," said Melissa McBride, Chief of Contractor Registration and Plumber Certification at L&I. "Being out at jobsites sends an important message that we take compliance seriously. By identifying violations and following up when we find problems, we help protect consumers, promote safe workplaces and ensure contractors who follow the rules aren't put at a disadvantage by those who don't."

[View More Information on Verifying a License with the Washington Department of Labor & Industries (L&I)]

"The strength of this initiative lies in the shared commitment of our state members to protecting the public and maintaining integrity within the construction industry," said Angie Whitaker, CAE, NASCLA Executive Director. "Whether through targeted enforcement operations, ongoing investigations, or consumer education, each participating agency plays an important role in addressing unlicensed contracting activity. We are incredibly grateful for the continued partnership, leadership, and dedication of our state members as we work together to promote accountability, strengthen consumer awareness, and support a safer construction industry nationwide."

A Reminder to Consumers: Do You Know How to Verify a Contractor's License in Your State?

Before hiring a contractor for your next construction or home improvement project, take a moment to ask yourself: **Do I know how to verify that my contractor is properly licensed?**

Contractor licensing requirements vary by state, but verifying a contractor's license or registration is an important step consumers can take to protect themselves from potential financial loss, unsafe work, and unlicensed contracting activity.

NASCLA encourages consumers to:

- Verify that the contractor holds an active license or registration, as required by your state.
- Obtain two to three estimates and avoid automatically selecting the lowest bid.
- Check at least three references and ensure a written contract is in place.
- Avoid making large down payments and make payments as work progresses.
- Monitor the project as work is completed.
- Withhold final payment until the job is fully completed, retaining all final paperwork.

Not sure where to start? Contact your state contractor licensing agency to learn about licensing requirements and how to verify a contractor's credentials before hiring.

NASCLA encourages consumers to take an active role in protecting themselves when planning construction or home improvement projects.

For additional consumer awareness information, visit NASCLA's Consumer Reference Library at www.nascla.org/consumer-reference-library.

For more information about NASCLA, visit www.nascla.org or contact the association office at (623) 587-9354.