



Media Contact:

C. Frank Wiesner

Executive Director

North Carolina Licensing Board for General Contractors

(800)220-7185

919-571-4183 ext. 210

frank.wiesner@nclbgc.org

North Carolina Licensing Board for General Contractors: Be Wary of Illegitimate Contractor Scams in Aftermath of Hurricane Florence

Raleigh, N.C., September 17, 2018 – In the aftermath of Hurricane Florence, thousands of North Carolinians with damaged homes, businesses and other property will be prime targets for scam artists.

The North Carolina Licensing Board for General Contractors (NCLBGC) is advising citizens to exercise extreme caution to avoid becoming further victimized by scam artists posing as legitimate contractors. The NCLBGC reminds citizens that licensed general contractors have passed an examination and have met the financial requirements for being a licensed general contractor in the State of North Carolina.

“Unfortunately, natural disasters like Hurricane Florence lead to an increase in individuals posing as legitimate licensed contractors in an effort to prey upon vulnerable citizens,” said C. Frank Wiesner, Executive Director, NCLBGC. “Individuals who hire unlicensed contractors are putting themselves at great financial risk.”

The NCLBGC reminds North Carolinians of the following:

- Any project quoted at \$30,000 or more **requires** a valid NC general contractors license.
- Projects less than \$30,000 do **not** require a license. However, hiring a NC licensed general contractor may offer security in knowing that you are dealing with a legitimate contractor who is authorized to engage in construction or repairs.
- Ask for proof that the contractor is licensed. Citizens can verify if the contractor is properly licensed by: 1) searching on the NCLBGC’s website at www.nclbgc.org; 2) calling the NCLBGC at (800)220-7185; or 3) downloading the Board’s free mobile app for Apple and Android devices by entering “NCLBGC SEARCH” in the search feature.
- Be wary of door-to-door repair solicitations or people who demand payments in cash.

- Require a written contract that details the work to be done, materials to be used, a payment schedule and a timeline for work to be completed. A licensed contractor is required to list their license number on all contracts.
- Contact your insurance company before beginning any work.
- Contact the local permitting office or inspections department to determine if permits are required to assure building code compliance. If permits are required, be sure the contractor acquires them before construction begins.
- Before making final payment, evaluate the completed work and ask your contractor to confirm that all subcontractors and suppliers have been paid to eliminate potential liens on your property.

The NCLBGC is the state agency that issues licenses to over 28,000 licensed general contractors in North Carolina. Additional information is available at www.nclbgc.org or by calling (800)220-7185 or (919) 571-4183.

Note to Media: Frank Wiesner is available for on-camera or phone interviews related to this topic.