



## NAPA COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

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For Immediate Release  
October 23, 2017

### PRESS RELEASE

#### DISTRICT ATTORNEY CONTRACTING WITHOUT A LICENSE ANNOUNCEMENT

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Napa County District Attorney Allison Haley announced information for Napa County residents regarding contracting work in the wake of the recent wildfires. As our community begins to rebuild, homeowners and businesses will need to rely upon the work of competent and licensed contractors.

California law prohibits acting in the capacity of a contractor, including debris removal, unless licensed by the Contractors State Licensing Board (CSLB). This is not a general business license issued by the city or county, but a special license for contractors. By law, an unlicensed contractor may perform home improvement work only if the value of the project, including labor and materials, is less than \$500. Any advertisement for contracting must include the contractor's state license number or indicate that the contractor is not state licensed.

Contracting without a license is a misdemeanor. However, when such contracting occurs in connection with the offer of performance of repairs to a structure for damage caused by a natural disaster for which a state of emergency has been declared, it may be charged as a felony, punishable by up to three years imprisonment in county jail and a fine of up to \$10,000. Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. declared a state of emergency covering Napa County on October 9, 2017.

Consumers can find a variety of educational materials to help them through the rebuilding process in the Disaster Help Center on the CSLB website, [www.cslb.ca.gov](http://www.cslb.ca.gov). The licensee status of a contractor can also be checked at that website. Consumers can also receive assistance by calling the CSLB Disaster Hotline at 800-962-1125. The line is open Monday-Friday from 8 am to 5 pm. CSLB encourages fire victims to watch their 22 minute video, "Rebuilding After a Natural Disaster" on their website under Disaster Help Center in the Media Room.