

April 1, 2009

## **NORTH DAKOTA ATTORNEY GENERAL AND SECRETARY OF STATE ISSUE FLOOD CONTRACTOR LICENSING ADVISORY**

BISMARCK – Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem and Secretary of State Al Jaeger advise all contractors, in-state and out-of-state, engaging in flood damage work that they must be properly licensed before entering into any contracts or engaging in any commercial or residential flood damage repair.

“Contractors are prohibited by North Dakota law from engaging in any work without first obtaining a necessary contractor’s license from the Secretary of State,” said Jaeger. In addition, Stenehjem and Jaeger remind contractors they must be registered with North Dakota Workforce Safety and Insurance and Job Service North Dakota. According to Stenehjem in-state and out-of-state contractors also may require a Transient Merchant’s license.

“Natural disasters will attract both legitimate and unscrupulous contractors from locations all across the country,” Stenehjem said. “While we appreciate contractors willing to come to flood damaged communities to do work, all licensing laws will be strictly enforced. We intend to vigorously protect our citizens from fly-by-night contractors.”

Stenehjem reminds contractors that North Dakota laws serve two important purposes. “These laws ensure that contractors and subcontractors have the necessary insurance to protect property owners from liability and to protect injured workers,” said Stenehjem. “In addition, the laws ensure a level playing field for contractors that do comply.”

Parrell Grossman, director of the Attorney General’s Consumer Protection Division, advises all contractors that North Dakota licensing laws provide criminal penalties for anyone engaging in work without required licenses. “Violators who engage in any work without complying with North Dakota licensing laws will be investigated and may be referred for criminal prosecution, as well as facing civil penalties,” Grossman said. Grossman reminds general contractors that they are responsible for ensuring that their subcontractors also are in compliance with North Dakota licensing laws.

Contractors with licensing questions should contact the state agencies included in the agency licensing contact list, which is available on the “forms” link on the Attorney General’s website, [www.ag.nd.gov](http://www.ag.nd.gov).

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Contractors: [Agency Licensing Contact List](#)