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NEW RULES GOVERN CONTRACTOR ADVERTISING
Unlicensed Contractors Risk Misdemeanor Charges and Civil Penalties
Present Possible Danger to Public

Meridian, ID – New rules now in place provide enhanced protection to Idaho consumers who may contract for plumbing and electrical services. The rules make it easier to identify licensed Idaho contractors and impose sanctions on unlicensed contractors advertising to do plumbing or electrical work.

The rules were deemed necessary to prevent the practice of unlicensed persons or entities advertising their services and holding themselves out to the public as available to perform plumbing and/or electrical contracting services. The new rules also require Idaho plumbing contractors to include their license number in their advertising and require any person or entity advertising to perform electrical contractor services to first obtain an Idaho electrical contractor license through the Division of Building Safety.

Violation of the new rules is a misdemeanor offense that can result in significant civil penalties. Unlicensed contractors performing the work of professional plumbers and electricians, in addition to impacting the livelihood of those who play by the rules, also may pose a danger to the public.

“The purpose of licensing is to ensure that those who engage in these professions have the competency required to protect the public,” Division of Building Safety Deputy Administrator Steve Keys said. “Safety is paramount in these professions and our agency is charged statutorily with protecting the public against unqualified contractors.”

Updates to administrative rules governing plumbing contractor advertising and electrical and plumbing contractor licensing became effective May 8, 2009 with the adjournment of the Idaho Legislature.

Persons with knowledge of individuals or companies illegally performing the work of a plumbing or electrical contractor are encouraged to bring the matter to the attention of the Division of Building Safety by calling 1-800-955-3044.

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