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CCB ramps up enforcement efforts against illegal construction

The Construction Contractors Board (CCB) is using a new strategy to find those that are working illegally.

In early 2006, the CCB changed its strategy to find more effective ways to enforce the laws that regulate the construction work and be a deterrent to illegal activity. Over the past 12 months, the CCB has conducted a number of “sweeps” which saturate targeted areas with compliance officers to check jobsites for illegal activities.

CCB compliance officers have conducted five sweeps in eastern Oregon, the southern Oregon coast, Medford/Grants Pass/Klamath Falls area and central Oregon. The sweep in central Oregon was a joint effort that included compliance officers from the employment division, workers’ compensation, building codes and revenue.

Overall, the CCB sweeps have amounted to over 400 job site checks by CCB compliance officers, 131 pending investigations, 39 violations and three warnings.

“Illegal activity doesn’t just hurt the consumer,” says Rich Blank, Enforcement Manager. “It hurts the legitimate contractors that work hard to stay in compliance only to get undercut by those who don’t.”

Efforts have also been stepped up throughout the Willamette Valley with site checks happening at any given time on any day of the week.

“More enforcement sweeps are definitely planned,” says Blank. “And just like before, when and where will be a surprise.”

The CCB is a state agency licensing more than 44,000 contractors. Anyone who is paid to repair, improve or build a home must be licensed by the CCB. Consumers can verify a contractor’s license and find information for successful projects at www.hirelicensedcontractor.com or by visiting www.oregon.gov/CCB . Consumers can also get information by calling 503-378-4621.

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