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Building Codes Division penalizes repeat licensing and permitting violators

(Salem) – The Oregon Department of Consumer and Business Services, Building Codes Division (BCD) took additional action this fall against Traditional Electric LLC of Hillsboro and owner Brian Myers for repeatedly conducting unsafe and unlicensed electrical work.

Myers, whose violations date back to 2007 when he worked for a Salem contractor, was fined \$15,000 in September and another \$4,000 in October for working without an electrician's license. BCD had suspended Traditional Electric's electrical contractor license in March and permanently revoked the license in September, after Myers continued to perform electrical work. The company was fined \$39,000.

"We are working aggressively with our advisory boards to stop repeat violators of licensing, permit, and code requirements," said Patrick Allen, administrator of the Building Codes Division. "We will take whatever steps necessary to protect the public and prevent unsafe construction work."

Other recent cases include:

- BCD assessed Harry Kim, dba POP Sign, \$18,000 in civil penalties in August for unlicensed and unpermitted electrical work. Kim, from the Portland area, has a long list of violations of BCD's statutes, administrative rules, and specialty codes, dating back to 2000. In addition to assessing a penalty for Kim's recent violations, the division is pursuing a court injunction against Kim. Any future unlicensed or unpermitted electrical installation performed by Kim would then be a violation of a court order as well as a violation of state law.
- BCD in June sought a permanent injunction against Walter E. "Rick" Steinbrook of Salem for a history of unlicensed electrical work. Steinbrook's violations date back to 1999 when he was licensed as a general supervising electrician and electrical contractor. After numerous violations of license and permit requirements, BCD revoked his electrical licenses, and in 2007 levied a \$25,000 civil penalty. In January 2009, Steinbrook violated an order to "cease and desist" from making electrical installations in Oregon, which led to the permanent injunction.

Companies and individuals must be licensed to make electrical installations in Oregon. BCD urges consumers not to do business with unlicensed individuals or contractors. Anyone with information about unqualified electricians or any other unlicensed contractors should call Brent Griffiths in Salem at 503-508-5673. For more information, go to www.bcd.oregon.gov.

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The Building Codes Division, part of the Department of Consumer and Business Services, provides building code development, administration, inspection, plan review, licensing, and permit services to the construction industry to help ensure the safe and effective construction of structures in Oregon.

The Department of Consumer and Business Services is Oregon's largest business regulatory and consumer protection agency. For more information, visit www.dcbs.oregon.gov.