



News Release

Office of the Louisiana State Fire Marshal
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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UNLICENSED CONTRACTORS ARRESTED

The State Fire Marshal reported today that an unlicensed fire protection contractor was arrested last week for fraud. The LaSalle Parish Sheriff's office and the Jena Police Department arrested Myron Tim Repp, owner of LA Fire Extinguisher Inspections, Inc. in Jena on September 28, while Repp was attempting to service portable fire extinguishers at several different businesses in Jena. Repp allegedly informed the store owners that the fire extinguishers needed to be inspected and then hung a green tag on the extinguishers indicating "Inspection". Repp last had a license in January, 2002. Repp also worked unlicensed in the Baton Rouge area and a court injunction was obtained by the fire marshal against him on March 22, 2004.

Repp is the second unlicensed fire protection contractor arrested this year. In January, Randle Lee Guillory, owner of Deep South Fire & Hood Cleaning was arrested by the Lake Charles Police Department for fraud and impersonating a fire marshal. Guillory was previously licensed but his license expired in January of 2003.

The Office of the State Fire Marshal regulates the sprinkler, fire protection (fire extinguishers, fire suppression and fire alarms) and the security (burglar alarms, locksmiths, and CCTV) industries. All individuals must pass a competency exam or course. Security contractors must also pass a criminal background check.

Deputy State Fire Marshal Boyd Petty, Manager for the Licensing Section, warned all business and home owners of the fraud potential from unlicensed contractors. "Ask the contractor for his license. Both the firm and the employees must be licensed. If an individual cannot produce a current pocket license with their photograph, then you should not deal with that individual," Petty stated. Petty encourages all home and business owners to contact his office if they have any doubt about the fire or security contractor they are dealing with. The public can reach the fire marshal's office at 1-800-256-5452, statewide or 225-925-7047 in the Baton Rouge area.

"Both Repp and Guillory are also facing large civil penalties for their actions in addition to the criminal charges," Petty concluded.

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