



News Release

OFFICE OF LOUISIANA STATE FIRE MARSHAL

Department of Public Safety & Corrections
Public Safety Services

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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California Man Nabbed In Fire Marshal Sting

New Orleans, LA – Following up on leads received since conducting a successful undercover sting last month, State Fire Marshal investigators cited a man Wednesday for performing locksmith services in the New Orleans East area without a license.

Babila Zion, 23, was identified by a uniformed investigator after he responded to a call for service that was made earlier to a company called “24/7 Locksmith,” under the guise of performing lock work in a vacant business space.

According to the State Fire Marshal’s Office, which is the licensing and regulatory agency of locksmiths, “24/7 Locksmith” is unlicensed to conduct business in Louisiana.

In addition to an Israeli driver’s license, Zion presented a U.S. Passport which showed his place of birth as being California. He was driving an unmarked passenger vehicle with Illinois plates at the time of the encounter. These issues remain under investigation and may involve other state and/or federal law enforcement agencies.

Investigators subsequently issued Zion a citation with a proposed civil fine of \$1,500 for unlicensed activities and a cease and desist order, which, if violated, carries penalties of fines and/or jail time.

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News Release – Addendum (Locksmith Sting Operation; 5/29/15)



Babila Zion leaning against his vehicle while a State Fire Marshal investigator confirms information (5/27/15).

Photograph provided by the Louisiana State Fire Marshal's Office



An assortment of tools and devices in the trunk of Babila Zion's vehicle (5/27/15).

Photograph provided by the Louisiana State Fire Marshal's Office