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**PRESS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**YoURAT arrests twelve Unlicensed and / or Uninsured Employers**

Woodland, CA – October 16, 2008. - On October 15, 2008, The Yolo County District Attorney's Office, Contractor's State Licensing Board, Woodland Police Department, Department of Insurance Department of Industrial Relations – Division of Standards and Labor Enforcement, and Employment Development Department conducted another full day sting operation, aimed at Unlicensed and Uninsured Employers.

This sting is another in a series of stings conducted by the Yolo Unlicensed Rapid Apprehension Team, affectionately known as YoURAT. This team was put together three years ago to help deal with the problems associated with being an unlicensed contractor and failing to insure their employees. The arrests now total one hundred and twelve persons who have been cited, arrested or fined for failing to be a licensed contractor, having workers' compensation insurance, and paying their employee's under the table.

Jeff Reisig, District Attorney for Yolo County, said that "during these trying economic times, it is even more important to insure that the businesses you allow in your home are legitimate and insured. To do otherwise risks financial ruin if the contractor does a poor job, or whose employee is injured on your job site." Lt. Dan Stroski, who is in charge of the Insurance Fraud Unit for the District Attorney and member of YoURAT, said that "contractor's are struggling to make a living these days, and are willing to cut corners to make a dime. Without the proper bonding and insurance, they ask you to take a risk every time you allow them to work on your property without checking them out first."

Yesterday's results are that fourteen persons were contacted, twelve were arrested for contracting without a license, and seven were fined civil assessments amounting to \$9,500 for failing to have workers' compensation insurance and/or paying their employees under the table. There remain two pending investigations by the Department

of Insurance and the Yolo County D.A.'s office that could add two more criminal charges for failing to have workers' compensation insurance.

Consumers may contact the Contractor's State License Board to determine if the company they are considering to hire is legitimate. Consumers may call (800) 321-CSLB, or check their web site at: <http://www.cslb.ca.gov/>

For further information contact Lt. Dan Stroski at the Yolo County District Attorney's Office at 530-666-8380.

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