

Louisiana roofer to bring 300 jobs to Phoenix

by **J. Craig Anderson** - Jan. 14, 2011 12:00 AM
The Arizona Republic

A Baton Rouge, La.-based roofing contractor plans to expand its operation into the Phoenix area, which the company said will bring more than 300 jobs to the area.

Jasper Contractors Inc. is the second out-of-state roofing company to announce an expansion into Arizona since a freak hailstorm struck the Phoenix area in October, damaging an estimated 150,000 residential rooftops.

Jasper Contractors was founded in 2004 and has an A+ rating with the Better Business Bureau, according to the company's Web site, jasperroof.com.

The site lists a variety of openings in the Phoenix area for jobs including sales reps, estimators, roof installers, warehouse staff, office administrators and commercial drivers.

Jasper Contractors plans to host two job fairs in Phoenix, the first next Thursday and the second on Feb. 24.

The company said it would continue to hold such events periodically until all open positions are filled.

Company owner and CEO Brian Wedding said that all of the openings are for full-time employees and that the company does not plan to hire workers on a contract basis.

"Skilled, entry-level construction workers will be the main focus of our hiring," Wedding said in a news release. "We want to attract all the skilled construction workers we can during the housing industry downturn to be ready for an inevitable upturn in new housing markets."

Jasper Contractors is the second out-of-state roofing company in the past month to announce big expansion plans in Phoenix.

Colorado-based contractor 1st Choice Roofing Co. said in mid-December that it was in the process of hiring 100 Phoenix area workers for a variety of jobs.

On Oct. 5, a violent hailstorm ripped through Phoenix and surrounding communities, causing considerable damage to roofs and a surge in homeowner insurance claims.

Most homeowners with roof damage are responsible only for paying the insurance deductible, but local roofers have said it can take months to schedule repairs because of the unusually high demand.

Jasper Contractors intends to help ease that

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imbalance while contributing to the Phoenix area's economy, Wedding said.

"The construction industry helps a variety of other local businesses, and we look forward to help putting Phoenix-area residents to work," he said.

For more information call 800-610-9403 or visit jasperroof.com.

Thursday's fair will be at the Doubletree Guest Suites Phoenix, 320 N. 44th St., from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Feb. 24 fair's location is still undetermined.

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