



The Industry Update

**A membership service of the Northwest Automotive Trades Association
For the weeks of July 28 and August 4, 2008**

TAKE STEPS TO PROTECT BUSINESS FEDERAL TAX ID NUMBER

According to CRASH Network (www.CrashNetwork.com), two shops say their companies' federal tax ID numbers were fraudulently used this spring to establish cell phone accounts or make purchases at national office supply chains.

Dawn Hilty of Wingate Body Shop in Findlay, Ohio, said in mid-April she received a call from AT&T to confirm that her business was applying to purchase 25 cell phones. She received similar calls over the next week, learning someone was attempting to purchase a total of 100 cell phones. The following week, she received a letter from Staples saying it was denying her credit application (she had not applied) as well as an invoice from Office Depot for \$5,224 for four laptop computers purchased in Montgomery, Alabama.

Vanessa Boutwell-Dietsch at Boutwell Collision, also in Findlay, had a similar experience the following month, getting calls about attempts to establish credit in her company's name (using its federal tax ID number) at Home Depot and Cincinnati Bell Wireless, and receiving a Staples card showing the shop had applied for and been approved for a \$5,000 credit line.

Both women say that after hours spent on calls to the police, FBI, Federal Trade Commission, banks and credit bureaus, they now realize there is far less in place to protect businesses (as opposed to individuals using Social Security numbers) from such "identity theft."

Hilty said she was able to get a fraud alert placed with Dun & Bradstreet. But she and identify theft experts caution businesses to protect their federal tax ID number by:

- not including it on estimates or shop documents;
- limiting how many employees have it and ensuring they know how it is to be used or shared;
- not giving it out to callers without confirming who they are and that they have a legitimate need for it; and,
- shredding any documents to be disposed of that include your federal tax ID number.

WATCH FOR YOUR BENEFITS PACKAGE FROM THE NATA HEALTH PLAN – OPEN ENROLLMENT PERIOD BEGINS SEPTEMBER 1. The last day for changes and/or enrollment in the plan will be September 30, 2008, with all changes in the health plan beginning October 1, 2008.

CHRYSLER ISSUES POSITION STATEMENT ON STRUCTURAL REPAIRS

Chrysler has issued a position statement saying it does not approve of structural collision repair procedures in which OEM parts are not used. The document also states that "unless partial replacement procedures are documented in a Chrysler publication, structural panels must be installed in their entirety; partial replacement or 'sectioning' of panels may compromise vehicle structure." It also says Chrysler does not support the use of any salvage structural parts.

GM OFFERS PARTS REBATE PROGRAM

General Motors has expanded to 900 the number of parts for which it offers shops a 2 percent rebate in the form of Sears, Lowes, Best Buy, American Express or I-CAR gift certificates. Shops enrolled in the GM PART-ner program receive the 2-cent credit for every dollar spent on qualifying parts and "there are no forms to fill out, box tops to send in or websites where information has to be entered," according to a GM press release. Shops should contact their GM dealer to enroll.

THE CALENDAR OF EVENTS:



Saturday, August 16 - The Association of Women in Automotive (AWA) will host their 3rd annual benefit concert featuring the **SawTale Ridge Band**. Proceeds go directly to a scholarship fund AWA has established at Portland Community College. **Sawtale Ridge** is a great local band, playing bluegrass, folk and country in a picturesque setting.

LOCATION: 27795 S. Beaver Creek Rd., Mulino, Oregon

Call to RSVP, 503 423-7355

Suggested donation: Adults, \$5; Children under 12, FREE

Consider making a donation to the scholarship fund. All donations are tax deductible (ID#93-0811291). Make checks payable to PCC AWA Scholarship Fund.

Co-sponsored by NATA

Wednesday, August 20 – **Lisa Trussell**, Government Affairs Director for Health Net Health Plan of Oregon, Inc., joins us to share information about current statewide initiatives and mandates now under discussion to **decide the future of health insurance in Oregon**. Join us to learn what you can do to make sure your opinion is heard on this hot topic in our state!

LOCATION: NACM Classroom, Ste. 201

7931 NE Halsey St., Portland OR 97213

Call to register, 503 253-9898

Members \$25 Non Members \$30

Wednesday, September 17 – **Do HR issues have you baffled and confused?** NATA presents **Carrie Eisenbrandt**, Beecher Carlson, with over 20 years of experience in Human Resources! From HR basics to regulatory compliance to customer service, she enjoys helping others improve their knowledge base and management abilities through managing people.

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Have questions? Want more information? We are here for you!

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