



## *The Industry Update*

A membership service of the Northwest Automotive Trades Association  
For the weeks of November 24 - December 1, 2008

**New Oregon Safety Committee Meeting Requirements Official** - Oregon OSHA recently revised a safety committee rule (OAR 437-011-0765) to provide greater clarity and flexibility to employers wanting to involve their workers in discussions of health and safety on the job. Under the new rules, ALL employers will need to have either a safety committee or use the less formal option of safety meetings to involve their employees in addressing jobsite safety. For more information, see the new rules on Oregon OSHA website [www.orosha.org](http://www.orosha.org) and click on "Rules/Compliance," then select "Division 1." You may also call 503 378 3272 to schedule a consultation.

**Good News for NATA Health Plan Participants** - The NATA Health Plan offers our members a CHOICE in high quality plans, either HealthNet of Oregon or Kaiser Permanente Northwest. Recently, Kaiser Permanente Northwest topped all other Oregon and Washington health plans in U.S. News & World Report's annual list of "America's Best Health Plans.™" U.S. News & World Report worked with the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) to rank plans on the basis of consumer assessment, preventive care, and treatment provided. Nationwide, they were ranked 50th among commercial health plans. Their Senior Advantage plans ranked 20th among all Medicare plans. Rankings were published in the November 17 issue of U.S. News & World Report. They're available online at [www.usnews.com/healthplans](http://www.usnews.com/healthplans). Congratulations Kaiser Permanente Northwest!

**NATA Member Honored at NACE in Las Vegas** - Ron Reichen, president and CEO of Precision Body and Paint in Beaverton, Ore., received the "Q Award," which honors those who "quietly persist in doing the right thing for the collision repair industry," at an awards ceremony in Las Vegas in November. Reichen serves on the boards of NATA, SCRS and the Oregon Collision Repair Specialists.

**The Fix Auto Network of Shops** - In November they presented their "National Customer Service Index Champions" award for 2007 to the Fix Auto shops in Portland, Ore. The network divided its shops into eight teams for the "friendly competition" which also includes a donation to the non-profit group of the winners' choice.

**Another NATA Member Honored** - Old Dominion Collision Centers, with locations in Eugene and Springfield, was a finalist in the "Small Family Business" category for this year's "Excellence in Family Business Awards," being presented this month by the Austin Family Business Program. Old Dominion is owned by Patty McConnell, who operates the two shops along with her son, Dustin McConnell, who serves as general manager. The award honors family businesses based on business success, positive links between business and family, multiple generations of involvement, contributions to community and industry, and innovative business practices and strategies.

**Underground Injection Control (UIC) Regulations in the Mail** - Some NATA members may have received a letter from Oregon DEQ about "Notice to Comply" with the federal "Safe Water Drinking Act" now regulated by Oregon DEQ. The UIC program goal is to protect freshwater aquifers from contamination from dry wells, drill holes, soakage trenches and infiltration galleries used to manage stormwater or to discharge other fluids below ground. Owners or operators of UIC systems without Authorization by Rule or a WPCF permit issued by DEQ are not in compliance with state rules and federal regulations.

The 2007 Oregon Legislature passed HB 2118 authorizing DEQ to collect fees to regulate UIC systems. If you have received this letter in the mail and you do not have UICs, or have questions about the program, you can call Barbara Priest, DEQ's UIC program coordinator, at 503 229-5945.

**Oregon BOLI Working on Meal and Rest Period Rules** - The Oregon Bureau of Labor and Industries (BOLI) In September suspended a July 2008 amendment to its meal and rest period rule and reinstated the previous version of the rule. The reinstated rule goes into effect immediately. In general, almost all employees must receive rest breaks and meal periods. A typical employee whose work period is eight hours long must receive at least an unpaid 30-minute meal period during which the employee is relieved of all duties and two paid 10-minute rest breaks. The July amendments to the BOLI rule changed the criteria to determine when an employer would not be required to relieve an employee of all duties. The old version of the rule, which is now once again in effect, requires employees to be completely relieved of duty during rest and meal breaks unless the "nature or circumstances of the work" requires them to remain on duty. A BOLI advisory committee is meeting this fall to review the rule and consider recommendations for other possible amendments.

What do these changes mean for employers? Be sure that all employees are receiving appropriate meal and rest periods and are being relieved of all duties during meal times. Pay employees for any time spent during a rest or meal period in which they are not completely relieved of duty.

**Auto Insurer Market Share in Oregon** - State Farm and Farmers Insurance continue to dominate Oregon's personal auto insurance market, together insuring more than one out of three drivers on the road in the state. Allstate, Safeco and Nationwide have each lost a little market share, while GEICO, Ameriprise and White Mountain Group (Esurance) appear to have gained some. The figures are based comparing the latest figures (for 2007) from the National Association of Insurance Commissioners to previous year numbers. The Top 10 personal auto insurers in terms of market share are:

State Farm	18.8% (unchanged)
Farmers	17.9% (up from 17.4%)
Allstate	9.2% (down from 9.4%)
Progressive	8.3% (unchanged)
Safeco	7.1% (down from 7.5%)
Amer. Family	4.9% (unchanged)
GEICO	4.4% (up from 4%)
Country Ins	3.6% (unchanged)
Nationwide	3.3% (down from 3.6%)
USAA	3% (down from 3.1%)

*Please Note: There will be no LUNCH AND LEARN session scheduled for December.*

**Happy Thanksgiving!**



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

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