

# Industry Update

News and Information for NATA Members



July 2020

## NATA continues to work to keep you informed



NATA hopes you enjoyed a happy and safe 4th of July weekend!

We continue to try to keep you up to date with the latest on financial assistance programs, sanitizing, social distancing and essential businesses requirements.

Our lobbyist Darrell Fuller has done a great job helping us keep you informed about legislative and regulatory changes. [Click here](#) to read his June 28 memo on the Oregon emergency legislative session. It includes links to many great resources.

The [COVID-19 tab](#) on our website includes many updates, and we will continue to keep that as current as possible.

We also added an **online classes tab** (of mostly [free](#) training).

Go to [www.aboutnata.org](http://www.aboutnata.org) to review the newest information.

We know these are very trying times, and there are so many questions and uncertainties. We want you to know that NATA is here for you. Our staff is working from home but we are available. Please feel free to call or email us with your concerns or how NATA might be able to help you.

Stay safe and healthy, and thank you for [your](#) continued support of [your](#) association!

## SAIF declares \$100 million dividend



SAIF last month declared a \$100 million dividend for policyholders. The dividend will be distributed in October to policyholders based on their premium for policies whose annual term ended in 2019. The entire dividend will be distributed

pro rata based on premium.

SAIF traditionally considers a policyholder dividend in September, but decided an earlier declaration would provide a financial boost to Oregon businesses facing the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The dividend will be calculated at the policy level in September, but SAIF estimates it will be between 17 percent and 22 percent of standard premium, though it may be higher or lower depending on final premium at the valuation date.

More detailed information regarding the dividend will be available on the SAIF website in September.

## Upcoming Events

**Looking For Online Training?**  
NATA has a webpage listing the options!  
[Click for Details](#)

## Offering DEQ testing to attract new customers



With long lines and wait times at DEQ's newly-reopened vehicle test centers, many motorists are turning to "DEQ Too" partners - businesses that can do emissions testing using devices that transmit the data to DEQ. Many NATA

members already participate in "[DEQ Too](#)". These business can take care of testing in addition to motorists' regular auto needs. If you are interested in adding "DEQ Too" as one of your service offerings, please contact the association's very own Mike Christopherson by [email](#) or at (503) 653-9315. He recently started the DEQ Too Business Alliance and owns ProTek Automotive in Northeast Portland.

DEQ began reopening their stations in mid-June after shutting them in mid-March to lessen the risk of spreading COVID-19 among staff and customers.

Stations have modified plans in alignment with new health and physical distancing guidelines. This will increase time spent on each transaction.

In addition to the 60,000 vehicles typically processes in June and July, nearly 200,000 inspections were postponed over the last three months, thus increasing the demand by motorists.

## Automotive Training Expo goes virtual



The Automotive Training Expo (ATE) that was postponed in March due to COVID-19 has now become a virtual training event that will be held August

3-6. Registration is available by [clicking here](#).

"We are excited to be the first automotive trade association to offer a virtual training event like this," said Jeff Lovell, ASA Northwest president and executive director.

There will be eight classes per day, with management/service advisor-oriented sessions in the morning and technical courses in the afternoon. In total, 32 top-rated classes will be provided over three days. [Click here](#) for a schedule.

Each ATE Virtual class will be three hours in length with a 30-minute break after an hour-and-a-half of instruction time. In that half-hour period, videos that range from 3-5 minutes from the training sponsors will provide useful data for participants. The total cost for attending as many classes as desired is \$225 per attendee. If you registered for an ATE Virtual Class and are unable to attend, the recording of the classes will be available for a two-week period after the event closes.

Course instructors include Gary Smith, Adam Robertson, Cecil Bullard, Scott Brown, Greg Marschand, Chris Cloutier, Kim Auemheimer, Dan Gilley, Maylan Newton, Tom Smith, Jimmy Lea, Jill Trotta, Kevin Leiby, John Thorton, Mark Seawell, Bryan Stasch, Pete Meier, Bernie Thompson, Phil Fournier, Eric Scharping, Chris Martino, John Shewbridge and John Burkhauser.

Official training sponsors of ATE Virtual include CTI-WTI, Advance Professional, Kukui Corporation, RLO Training, Standard Parts/O'Reilly, Opis/Autologic, Hunter Engineering, AESwave, Motor Age, ATI, Autotext.me, Repair Pal, ESI, and BOLT-ON Technology.

ATE East, an in-person classroom training program, will again be

held in Spokane, Wash., on October 23-24; a schedule for the event is being planned.

For details on ATE events, [click here](#) or call (877) 257-2100.

### Automotive education back in session



Tonia Haney of Clark College recently sent NATA some photos of students back working in the schools automotive lab.

"Many folks have been wondering how schools can teach automotive trades remotely," Haney said. "The solution most schools are opting for is to offer the lecture portion of the coursework remotely, but offer the hands-on portion of the training in-person using social distancing, smaller class sizes, face masks and hand sanitizers."

Clark College, located in Vancouver, Wash., offers dealer-sponsored programs for Toyota (TTEN), Honda (PACT), and Audi (AEP).

Many thanks to the schools and educators working to adjust what they're doing to keep themselves and students safe - and learning.



### Sources for current items you may need



Things are changing rapidly these days, so we wanted to pass along some sources for things you may be looking for at your business.

Pacific Office Automation offers [non-touch temperature scanners](#). For more information, contact Josh Cowell by [email](#) or at (503) 601-2451.

You can [click here](#) for ready-to-print signage regarding mask requirements for public-facing exterior doors and lobbies.

Need the latest Oregon labor law posters? Or guidance on legal hiring practices, wage and hour laws, or employee leave laws? [Click here](#) to check out the Oregon Bureau of Labor and Industries' e-commerce storefront.

### COVID-19 relief available for CAT payments

As the deadline approaches to make estimated Corporate Activity Tax (CAT)



payments for the second quarter, the Oregon Department of Revenue reminds taxpayers of relief available to those businesses negatively affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

As adopted in administrative rule 150-317-1500, the department will honor a business taxpayer's good-faith efforts to comply with the CAT and not assess penalties if they document their efforts to comply, including how COVID-19 has impacted their business.

If businesses know they'll owe \$10,000 or more in annual corporate activity tax in 2020 and can pay, they should make estimated quarterly payments and comply with the law to the fullest extent possible.

However, penalties will not be assessed for underestimated quarterly payments or for not making a quarterly payment for the Corporate Activity Tax, if businesses don't have the financial ability to make the estimated payment. If businesses have been impacted by COVID-19 and are finding it difficult to calculate or pay an estimated quarterly payment, they should keep documentation showing:

- Their inability to pay a quarterly payment because of insufficient funds due to COVID-19.
- Their inability to reasonably calculate a quarterly payment or annual tax liability due to their business being impacted by COVID-19.
- That the taxpayer is unclear at this time whether the business will owe corporate activity tax in April 2020 due to COVID-19 impacts, after taking into consideration exclusions and subtractions in the law.

Businesses uncertain about their economic future due to the COVID-19 crisis, or those that have been closed during this crisis and have no ability to determine if they will owe a tax this year, won't be penalized.

Registration for the CAT is still required. Businesses must register within 30 days of reaching \$750,000 in Oregon commercial activity in the calendar year. Registration is available through Revenue Online and the department offers a series of online resources to help with registration on the CAT page of the agency's [website](#).

Taxpayers with general questions about the CAT can email [cat.help.dor@oregon.gov](mailto:cat.help.dor@oregon.gov) or call (503) 945-8005.

### **What if an employee refuses to wear a mask?**



A member called NATA to ask: What is the recourse if an employee refuses to wear a mask when required? What constitutes a valid exemption, and how should that be handled? We reached out to the Oregon Bureau of Labor and Industries (BOLI) for some guidance.

Charlie Burr, a training and development specialist for BOLI prefaced his reply by noting that he can't offer legal advice, but that, "Generally speaking, employers have the right to require masks and in fact, some sectors must have their employees wear them in many circumstances (depending on the industry)."

"That said, an employee with a disability or religious objection has the right to request a waiver as a reasonable accommodation," Burr wrote. "If that occurs, then it becomes a question if this request is an

undue hardship on operations. Part of the analysis will depend on what the employee's role is and whether that employee is a threat to other employees, customers or vendors. Under law, employers do not have to make accommodations that pose a direct threat. Given the pandemic designation, there are stronger arguments for a direct threat here than earlier."

"Hopefully this is a helpful start in how to think about managing risks around the requirement."

## Health plan renewals coming soon



Participants in the NATA Health Plan should look for an email in the coming days with information about their renewal.

## Congressional changes to PPP Loans



U.S. Small Business  
Administration

Our friends at Irvine & Company shared this update about changes Congress made in June to the PPP loan program:

The new law materially changes many of the key aspects of PPP loans. Here is a summary of the legislation's main points compiled from the American Institute of CPAs:

- Current PPP borrowers can choose to extend the eight-week period to 24 weeks, or they can keep the original eight-week period. This flexibility is designed to make it easier for more borrowers to reach full, or almost full, forgiveness.
- New PPP borrowers will have a 24-week covered period, but the covered period can't extend beyond December 31, 2020.
- The payroll expenditure requirement drops to 60% from 75% but is now a cliff, meaning that borrowers must spend at least 60% on payroll or none of the loan will be forgiven. Currently, a borrower is required to reduce the amount eligible for forgiveness if less than 75% of eligible funds are used for payroll costs, but forgiveness isn't eliminated if the 75% threshold isn't met. Rep. Chip Roy (Texas), who co-sponsored the bill in the House, said in a House speech that the bill intended the sliding scale to remain in effect at 60%. Senators Marco Rubio and Susan Collins indicated that technical tweaks could be made to the bill to restore the sliding scale.
- Borrowers can use the 24-week period to restore their workforce levels and wages to the pre-pandemic levels required for full forgiveness. This must be done by December 31, a change from the previous deadline of June 30.
- The legislation includes two new exceptions allowing borrowers to achieve full PPP loan forgiveness even if they don't fully restore their workforce. Previous guidance already allowed borrowers to exclude from those calculations employees who turned down good faith offers to be rehired at the same hours and wages as before the pandemic. The new bill allows borrowers to adjust because they could not find qualified employees or were unable to restore business operations to February 15, 2020, levels due to COVID-19 related operating restrictions.
- New borrowers now have five years to repay the loan instead of two. Existing PPP loans can be extended up to five years if the lender and borrower agree. The interest rate remains at 1%.
- The bill allows businesses that took a PPP loan to also delay

payment of their payroll taxes, which was prohibited under the CARES Act.

As always, contact one of our great professionals at (503) 252-8449 if you have questions.

### Engine machining equipment for sale



Kirk VanGelder of the Technology Educators of Oregon said many in the industry will remember Ed Heim who was the auto tech instructor at Battle Ground High School.

"He had his own engine machining equipment, and was known as a very talented engine builder," VanGelder recently wrote to NATA. "His widow, Carol, is wanting to sell it so that someone else can get use out of it. She is asking \$25,000 for all of it, which is way less than Ed paid for it all."

[Click here](#) for photos of the equipment, which includes a Sunnen cylinder hone, line hone, rod machine, cap grinder and rod heater; a 3-phase converter; a Winona seat and guide machine, and sufacer; a valve facer and more.

VanGelder said it would be awesome if a school bought it given Ed's interest in training students, but anyone who is interested can [email him](#) for more information.

### Companies team up to offer free daily training



Carquest Technical Institute and Worldpac Training Institute have teamed up to **bring anyone in the industry free one-hour training classes being offered each weekday.**

"The goal is to keep our community working together and moving forward in a positive way during these challenging times," the companies said.

The live online classes feature technical and business management training, including courses focused on topics necessary to navigate business operations during the pandemic.

[Click here](#) for a flier about the classes, or [click here](#) to see a complete class schedule and to register.

### NATA can share resumes of displaced employees



To say these have been challenging times would be an understatement. If you have had to let any employees go permanently, you can suggest they submit their resume to NATA. We cannot act as an employment agency, but are happy to pass resumes on to other shops that are short-handed.

### Bend High School has instructor job opening



Bend High School has a job opening for next school year for a part-time instructor for its hybrid program that combines automotive technology with metal fabrication. (It will be part-time for the first year because the current instructor will stay on part-time to assist the new instructor.) The capstone of the program is the design, construction and competing of electric vehicles ([click here](#) for information regarding that portion of the program). Applicants will need at least 2,000 hours of industry experience. It will be a part-time position for the 2020-21 school year, then full-time after that. Anyone with questions about the position

can email the current instructor, Pat Garcia,  
pat.garcia@bend.k12.or.us.

## **Oregon agencies offer business training**



Three Oregon agencies offer regular training for companies within the state.

The Oregon Bureau of Labor and Industry (BOLI) offers training seminars on such topics as wage and hour laws, discipline and discharge, and the latest developments in employment law. Details are available by [clicking here](#).

The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality invites businesses that handle hazardous waste to sign up for a class covering basic management of such waste. Registration is free but on a first-come, first-served basis. [Click here](#) for more details.

The Oregon Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) offers classroom workshops and online training on such topics as hazard communications, safety meetings, lockout/tagout, personal protective equipment, etc. [Click here](#) for current class description and schedule, call (888) 292-5247 (option 2) or send an email to [ed.web@oregon.gov](mailto:ed.web@oregon.gov).

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### ***Need to reach us?***

Northwest Automotive Trades Association  
7931 NE Halsey, Suite 212  
Portland, OR 97213  
(503) 253-9898 or (800) 730-7282  
Fax: (503) 253-9890  
[www.aboutNATA.org](http://www.aboutNATA.org)

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