



News Capsule



Nebraska Autobody Association Special Automotive News Edition

The collision industry's database reporting system (DEG) processed over 500 database inquiries in just over 6 months. Collision repairers are turning to the DEG to log database issues and track information providers' responses. The DEG delivers an innovative approach to the database inquiry process. Nebraska collision repairers can submit inquiries free of any charge to database providers through the DEG directly from the Nebraska Autobody Association web site at <http://www.nebraskaautobody.com/>

Property & Casualty insurers doing business in Nebraska continue to reap substantial profits, according to information published by the Nebraska Department of Insurance. Private passenger auto physical damage premiums written by 'Foreign' insurers in Nebraska during 2007 topped \$330 million out of which insurers paid just \$180 million; a 54 percent loss ratio. Insurers across the country are also enjoying record margins with total Property & Casualty margins of 55 percent. Source: *Summary of Insurance Business 2007 Foreign Property & Casualty Totals*.

The first winter storm of the season is slamming into Nebraska's midsection and is estimated to bring up to six inches of snow, wind gusts of 40 MPH, blizzards, and areas of reduced visibility. The hazardous driving conditions could result in a sharp increase in motor vehicle collisions throughout the storm-affected region.

The Nebraska Autobody Association needs your help in expanding the number of individuals who receive this email newsletter. We ask that you forward the email addresses of your shop employees and Nebraska collision associates including shops and allied members to NABA. Email lists and addresses may be sent to nz41254@alltel.net

The idea of a second economic stimulus package by the U.S. government is gaining momentum after Federal Reserve Chairman, Ben Bernanke warned that the credit crisis is 'hitting home' and is suffocating the ability of consumers to gain financing. The proposed stimulus package would extend unemployment benefits and fund spending for state infrastructure projects such as roads and bridges. U.S. Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson said that the agency had funds to purchase shares in financial companies to ease credit and spur bank mergers.

A potential deal between General Motors and Chrysler that would merge the two automakers could lead to significant downsizing as both companies struggle to realize efficiencies and remain competitive in a market of sluggish auto sales. While a deal between GM and Chrysler is under consideration, a Hyundai assembly plant in Alabama is temporarily changing to a 4-day work week, a move that will halt production for 11 days this year and reduce the number of vehicles rolling off the assembly line by 11,000. In Japan, Nissan will reduce the production of vehicles by 65,000. Production cuts will include Luxury Infinity, Murano and Rogue. Nissan cited dwindling U.S. demand. Nissan's U.S. sales plunged 37 percent in September from the same month a year earlier.

Fight For What's Right

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Membership application available at

<http://www.nebraskaautobody.com/filedownloads/memberap1&2.pdf>

The information in this news capsule is obtained from sources believed to be accurate and reliable but readers should consult with an appropriate business professional before acting on information contained herein. Information contained herein does not necessarily reflect the opinions of NABA, its leadership or management. Summary prepared by Norbert Zaenglein.