



Nebraska Auto Body Association



# News Capsule

## News & Information

Thursday January 13, 2011

New hybrid vehicles are hitting the roadways every year and understanding how they function, and how to properly repair them is critical for today's collision repair shops. Avoiding injuries from high voltage systems should be top priority, and a free 60-minute webcast sponsored by ABRN and I-CAR will offer some insight into safely repairing hybrids. The free 60-minute educational webcast, "Hybrid Vehicles and Safe Repairs" will be held at noon EST Jan. 25. You can sign up for the [free webcast here](#).

Ford Motor Company this month announced their plans to hire 7,000 US workers in 2011. And 4,000 of those new jobs will be hourly positions in the factories, with 1,800 positions in Louisville, Kentucky where they will begin manufacturing the Ford Escape. 750 salaried engineering jobs are being added to the Ford team as well. Ford also anticipates a growth of at least 2,500 manufacturing jobs in 2012.

A bill introduced by Sen. Lathrop of Omaha would change liability insurance and financial responsibility requirements for Nebraska motorists. LB 196 would increase minimum bodily injury and destruction of property limits from \$25,000 to \$50,000. LB 196 has been referred to the Banking, Commerce & Insurance Committee. Get a copy of LB 196 is [available here](#).

For a second month, the Business Conditions Index for the nine-state Mid-America region that includes Nebraska advanced again. Surveys indicate that the region will likely continue to grow at a healthy pace with rising inflationary pressures at the wholesale level in the first half of 2011. A leading regional economic indicator expanded in December to 57.5 from November's 55.9 and was well above October's 52.3. This is the 13th consecutive month that the index has risen above growth neutral. "The regional economy ended the year on a high note as the weaker U.S. dollar and an expanding global economy stimulated business activity for firms with close ties to agriculture and energy commodities," Creighton University Economics Professor Ernie Goss said.

The Automotive Service & Repair Week (ASRW) will return to a rotating pattern beginning in 2011 with the first exposition scheduled for Oct. 6-8 at the Orange County Convention Center in Orlando Florida. This most recent change will also put the automotive show back on a Thursday to Saturday schedule, with education events starting the 5th of October. To attract new attendees ASRW plans to rotate locations between locations in the east, midwest and west.

I-CAR announced that its 2011 collision industry event would be at the Sheraton Salt Lake on July 19-21 in Salt Lake City, Utah. Registration material will be available on the I-CAR web site starting March 1. I-CAR's 2011 Industry Event will be held in conjunction with the Collision Industry Conference (CIC) and other industry events taking place throughout the week.

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

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