



## Nebraska Collision Industry Shop Bytes

September 6, 2011

The Nebraska Auto Body Association is in the process of surveying labor rates charged by shops for various collision services. Surveys have been mailed and you can also print a survey from the [NABA web site](#) or complete the [survey online](#)

West Point Nebraska's Last Fling Till Spring is the states largest 1 day car show featuring over 700 cars from 14 states 86 classes 350 trophies - 10 motorcycle classes - Swap meet - Car Corral - Live Music - Vendors Collector Car Auction Classic's and Project Cars and more. The event will be held on Sunday Sept. 18, 2011 in West Point Nebraska, For information contact Doug Peterson weekdays at 402-372-3390 or Fritz Feyerherm nights and weekends at 402-372-6469.

BASF and DuPont, along with other paint manufacturers are returning to ASRW, the International Autobody Congress & Exposition (NACE) and the Congress of Automotive Repair & Service (CARS), which makes it the industry's leading event for dedicated professionals to conduct business, network and engage in industry issues. ASRW is scheduled for Oct. 5-8 at the Orange County Convention Center in Orlando, Fla.

Hughes Telematics is partnering with AAA Club to offer In-Drive-connected services to the automobile club's 12 million drivers in 20 states. In-Drive connects the vehicle and its driver to Hughes operators in the event of an emergency or accident. Devices plugged into the vehicle's On-Board Diagnostics port and mounted on the visor connect the driver and the vehicle to Hughes' team of operators, who are available to help drivers coordinate emergency response and detect when a vehicle has been in a crash. AAA hasn't finalized its offerings or come up with pricing, but indicated it would like to offer members roadside assistance, auto crash notification, emergency calling, diagnostics, and stolen vehicle location, said Kevin Link, senior vice president of marketing for Hughes Telematics. The automobile club may also use different In-Drive device models.

A group of Allstate agents working under increasing pressures from the insurer are fighting back by unionizing. The Board of Directors of the National Association of Professional Allstate Agents is expected to be granted membership in OPEIU, the national AFL-CIO and all State Federations of Labor. "Affiliating with OPEIU is the first step toward ensuring that Allstate agents are treated as true independent contractors," said NAPAA executive director, Jim Fish. "Currently, agents are subjected to unachievable quotas, the specter of reduced compensation and an ever-present threat of contract termination. Agents also said that the insurer has been manipulating its independent contractor rules, terminating long-time agents, cutting agency compensation, and driving down agent morale.

The Collision Industry Alliance (CIA) is forming a group of highly-qualified independent contractors/vendors to offer services to collision shops, allied industries and state associations. Services include press releases and media distribution, web site and social media development, background checks and industry surveys. Interested parties must have four years of shop experience, a four-year college degree, four years of experience in their individual field of interest and pass a background check. Interested parties should [email the Alliance](#) for additional information.

Collision shop managers must safeguard their company's data by keeping up with the latest software releases as well as keeping their data backed up and stored in a safe off-site location. Computer experts warn that small businesses are more likely than their big corporate counterparts to suffer unrecoverable losses following an attack. Main data threats include viruses, spyware, malware and fakeware, which can be a pop-up disguised as a security warning that warns 'You're infected' or 'You may have an infection'. Another window asks for credit card information to remove the virus. Once entered, the credit card number will be used for unauthorized purchases.

The North American market for automotive appearance care chemicals is showing signs of a resurgence, according to a report available from companiesandmarkets.com. A gradual increase in new car sales post-recession, an increasing trend to maintain classic cars and the fact that drivers are keeping cars for longer, bodes well for the market. The uptick in the automotive market is accompanied by discretionary spending on products within the automotive appearance care products market including surfactants, chelating agents, polymers, waxes and corrosion inhibitors.

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

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