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NAAA Tops 35,000 Auction Staffers Certified in Safety Training *The National Auto Auction Association encourages 100% auction employee certification*

FREDERICK, MD — More than 35,000 people in the wholesale auto auction industry have become safety certified since the National Auto Auction Association launched its free, online safety training program in 2015, marking a milestone in NAAA's ongoing efforts to make auctions a safer place to work and do business.

NAAA's Auction Safety Certification and Lane Safety Training instructional series promote greater safety awareness and accident prevention through short educational videos for both full- and part-time auction employees.

NAAA also offers a 15-minute safety training video for auctioneers, entitled "Coach Caution," to help them play a more proactive safety leadership role when presiding over auction activities.

The programs are based on proven best practices in the industry and risk reduction initiatives developed by KAR Auction Services, Inc., that the company shared with the association so NAAA could provide the training to benefit its more than 340 auction members.

"Busy auto auctions have the potential to be hazardous and our program addresses improving safe practices with the industry's many part-time employees and contractors as well as regular staff," noted NAAA Chief Executive Officer Frank Hackett. "Our ultimate goal is one hundred percent employee certification at every auction."

NAAA created the "100% Safety Certified Award" to encourage participation and recognize auctions that have had their entire workforce successfully complete the program. To date, more than 100 auctions have received the award.

In the NAAA Auction Safety Certification course, staff members view a series of 12 videos and take a brief quiz at the end of each one. The entire course can be completed in about an hour. Temporary Agency Drivers take the 20-minute NAAA Lane Safety Training session and test, after which a certificate is emailed directly to them and the auction that requested the instruction. Certifications must be renewed annually.

Establishing a safer workplace for everyone requires a team effort and applies to all aspects of the operation, whether it's in the auction lanes, the shop or front office, according to Hackett.

"The training and education of each employee is important to their understanding the safest, most productive way to do the job, and a proactive safety program can help reduce risks and control costs from incidents involving injuries and property damage" he said. "That's why we're urging all NAAA member auctions to make total workforce safety certification a top priority."

For more information about the NAAA Safety Certification and Lane Safety Training programs for auction employees, as well as the Auction Arena Safety Training for auctioneers, visit the association's website, NAAA.com.

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