



# Press Release

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **SCRS to Introduce the Affiliate Conference**

*Inaugural two-day event to create a dynamic environment for industry information exchange and discussion, with a focus on SCRS affiliate associations*

*Prosser, Washington, August 10, 2006* — The Society of Collision Repair Specialists (SCRS) is gearing up for an exciting new development—the inaugural session of the SCRS Affiliate Conference for their affiliate associations, scheduled for September 27 and 28 at the I-CAR World Headquarters in Hoffman Estates, Illinois.

The conference, which has been in the planning stages for some time, will create an open forum in a state-of-the-art environment where leadership from SCRS' affiliate associations can meet to exchange ideas with each other and SCRS leadership. Since it is a stand-alone event, not held in conjunction with any other industry meetings, attendees will be afforded ample time and opportunity to discuss the issues that concern them most.

“The primary purpose of the conference is to be an effective conduit for communication,” says Executive Director Dan Risley. “Affiliates will hear directly from each other about what is working for them, what is not working for them, and the challenges their respective members are experiencing.”

Though the details of the program are still being finalized, each affiliate association will be given the opportunity to make a brief overview presentation on what is happening in their specific region or state, including any pertinent legislative developments. Audience participation—including the brainstorming of solutions for identified problems—will be encouraged. A schedule of speakers is likewise planned, and will be announced in the ensuing weeks.

The increasing pace of change experienced by the industry was a key driving force behind the creation of the conference. “Every year it seems to get more difficult to stay up on the latest developments,” states SCRS Director at Large Barry Dorn; “and as an ever-evolving industry, we need to stay at the cutting edge. This conference will allow us the necessary time to gain a better understanding of the many issues and challenges our members face, as well as an opportunity to share pertinent information (i.e. emerging technology) that can then be shared with their respective membership.”

The SCRS Affiliate Conference is also designed to facilitate understanding between SCRS as an organization and its members. “The SCRS Board will hear directly from its affiliates regarding their needs and ideas as to how we can work more closely together to address them,” says SCRS Chairman

Tom Moreland. “That input will help us fine-tune our approach and ensure that our members are getting what they need from us.”

Dorn agrees. “I think sometimes we take for granted that our entire membership knows who we are and what projects we are actively working on, but that may not always be the case.” Dorn continued, “This is a chance to promote mutual awareness and a clear view of our mission, adding unity to the SCRS ranks in the process.”

Though the SCRS Affiliate Conference is brand new, for SCRS Past Chairman Lou DiLisio, Jr., it is unmistakably linked to the past. “There’s a lot to be gained by bringing people together and building relationships—historically it’s been a true strength of the industry and SCRS,” he says. “What SCRS hopes to do with this conference extends right out of that tradition—that ‘Working Together Is The Most Important Work We Do’,” concluded DiLisio.

In the upcoming weeks, visit the SCRS web site for breaking news on the SCRS Affiliate Conference, or contact SCRS Executive Director Dan Risley at (708) 598-3384 or e-mail at [drisley7@comcast.net](mailto:drisley7@comcast.net).

Through its direct members and 33 affiliate associations, SCRS is comprised of 5,000 collision repair businesses and 58,500 specialized professionals who work with consumers and insurance companies to repair collision-damaged vehicles. Additional information about SCRS including other news releases is available at the SCRS web site: [www.scrs.com](http://www.scrs.com). You can e-mail SCRS at the following address: [info@scrs.com](mailto:info@scrs.com).