

Safeguards are part of auto testing

By Casey Hane
staff writer

TAMPERPROOF TESTING equipment and state follow-up will safeguard southeast Michigan residents from erroneous auto emission tests beginning Jan. 1, according to Rodger James, director of the state's Auto Exhaust Testing (AET) program.

"Since most people aren't going (to get their autos tested) because they want to, test cheating is our utmost concern," he said.

Due to a 1989 state law, most residents of Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties must have their autos inspected for emission problems before they can be licensed in 1986.

Six state-licensed auto repair companies in Farmington and Farmington Hills and 860 in the tri-county area are trained and licensed by the state for the program. AET is managed through the Michigan Secretary of State's office.

THE LAW is a result of federal Environmental Protection Agency tests conducted in the late 1970s. Ozone and carbon monoxide, two pollutants caused by auto exhaust and industrial smokestacks, exceeded federal guidelines in the tri-county area.

Without the established AET program, federal money for highway and new factory construction would have been withheld. Federal officials required Michigan to reduce air pollution in southeast Michigan 25 percent by 1987.

A 33-percent test failure rate is expected, according to James. This figure is based on programs from other states, and guidelines used for selecting vehicles that must be tested and those that are exempt.

State-designed testing equipment specifications require they be tamper-proof; an internal tamperproof magnet monitors each transaction for state analysis. "We will analyze each repair company's data," James said, "and see if there are any discrepancies."

THE REPAIR shops registered with

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Auto Exhaust Testing

the state have a good track record, he said.

"We know who the bad guys are. If we see a problem, we'll focus on it right away," James stressed. He encourages anyone suspicious of test results to contact his staff at 560-5080 for further investigation.

Approved testing equipment includes five brands, each ranging \$7,000-\$9,500. Some group discounts are offered; one manufacturer is offering a co-op plan where companies pay for equipment with a portion of the testing fee collected, James said. Repair facilities can charge up to \$10 for each inspection.

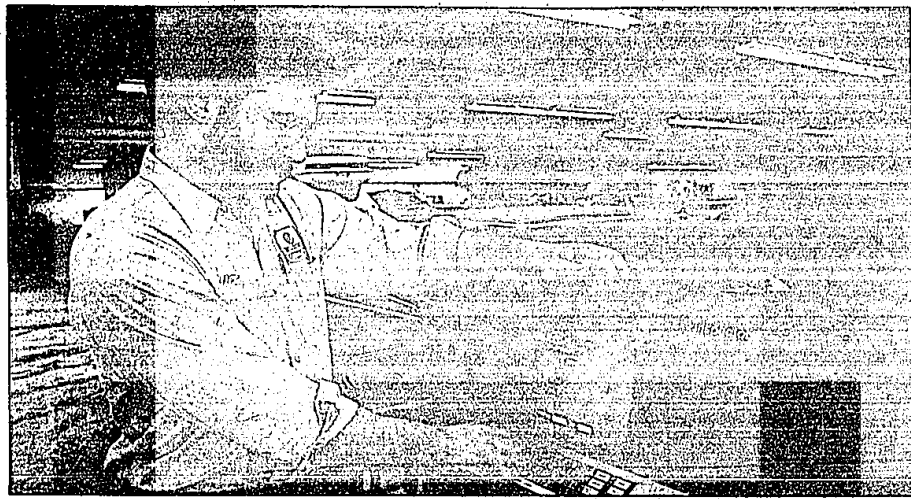
Dennis Priem, service manager for Bill Cook Buick Inc. of Farmington Hills, stresses the customer service aspect of the testing program. "We want the process to be simple and comfortable for our customers," Priem said.

THE TEST is good for six months, so he suggests customers with renewals in the next six months have the AET test done as the car is routinely serviced.

The procedure reportedly takes 10-15 minutes. The monitor is attached to a sparkplug wire to obtain a revolutions-per-minute reading, while an analyzer probe tests exhaust through the tailpipe. The computer then prints out a certificate that is presented when applying for license plates or tabs.

Several other states have AET programs, including New Jersey, which has had one in effect for 10 years, James said. California has a statewide program run through state-owned re-

For related stories, see Page 4A.



Mark Tallon, a service technician at Bill Cook Buick in Farmington Hills, sets up a computerized exhaust analyzer before running a test on a car.



AT LEFT: Mark Tallon places the probe into the tail pipe of a car to measure emissions from the exhaust.

Staff photos by
Randy Borst

short takes

If you recently opened a shop, captured an award, earned a promotion or are planning a new venture or project — and there's a Farmington-area business angle — we'd like to hear from you so we can share your news item with other Farmington Observer readers. Send items to: Short Takes, Farmington Observer, 33203 Grand River, Farmington 48024.

FIRM GROWS

In August 1988, Jerry Neyer and Hugo Halpert founded a small engineering firm to specialize in the field of geotechnical engineering. Geotechnical engineering is a branch of civil engineering devoted to the study of soil and earth materials and their impact upon construction projects, every one of which derives its support from the earth. The firm had a staff of five and occupied an 800-square-foot office in northwest Detroit.

The firm relocated to Farmington Hills in 1979, changing its name several times to reflect the coming and going of principals. Today, the firm — now known as Neyer, Tiseo & Hinde Ltd. — has moved its staff of more than 100 professionals, technicians and support staff into a new 35,000-square-foot facility on Hills Tech Drive.

The firm also has full-service offices in downtown Detroit, Flint, West Chester, Pa., and Oldsmar, Fla., all of which can provide soil and rock mechanics, engineering geology, hydrogeology, seismic and vibration analysis, construction materials evaluation, and testing and quality control for concrete, asphalt, structural steel and roofing.

Jerry Neyer is president of Neyer, Tiseo & Hinde. He, together with fellow principals Ben Tiseo, Kai Hinde and Dave Nona, oversees the entire design and construction process, starting with preliminary site evaluation and exploration, continuing through the design stages and monitoring of construction operations, and ending with performance evaluation of existing facilities.

The firm handles projects on any scale — from small commercial developments to high-rise buildings, power plants, industrial facilities and mass transit systems.

Ben Tiseo, vice president and director of engineering services, says: "The company has the staff, equipment and resources necessary to perform a wide variety of work assignments, from the simplest soil investigation or materials testing to highly complex projects requiring considerable originality, innovation, utilization of computer facilities and state-of-the-art technology."

Neyer, Tiseo & Hinde Ltd. has won major awards in recognition of the quality and the innovative nature of its work.

HE'S PROMOTED

Ron Milliman was promoted to correspondent development director at First Financial Mortgage Corp. (formerly Newman-Keller Corp.).

The Farmington Hills resident, who joined First Financial a year ago, is responsible for developing, marketing and expanding the Correspondent Division.

Trained in credit and lending, Milliman worked for 13 years in the sales finance industry. He also worked five years with the TWI-Credit Data Credit

Bureau as operations manager and sales manager before coming to First Financial as a senior loan officer.

TOPS IN SALES

Lawrence Silver of Farmington Hills was one of the 10 leading representatives in sales during September among all first-year Century Companies of America representatives.

A member of the Bernard Alter Agency of Farmington Hills, Silver joined the Century Companies of America in June.

Century Life of America is the parent company. It offers a full line of disability, group, pension and annuity products.

CHANGING ROLES

Donald Rooy was appointed management systems director at Providence Hospital, Southfield.

The Farmington Hills resident formerly was assistant administrator for the medical staff at Oakwood Hospital, Dearborn.

JOINS AGENCY

Henry Keldan has joined the Ross Roy Inc. advertising agency, Detroit.

Keldan is a copywriter for the Master Technical Service Conference Division of the Chrysler Corp. account.

He writes reference materials, articles for Chrysler's Tech News and scripts for technical training films sent to Chrysler-Plymouth dealers across the country.

NOW A GM

Margaret Caza was appointed to the newly created position of general manager at the Bon Ton Shoppe Inc., 23330 Farmington Road, Farmington.

Her duties include directing the day-to-day activities of the company's three gift and greeting card stores — in Farmington, Brighton and Livonia.

Caza has been with the company seven years. She most recently was manager of the Farmington store.

NEW IN TOWN

Maritz Business Travel — a new travel agency at 31275 Northwestern Highway, Suite 105 in Farmington Hills — offers automated travel documents, on-demand ticket delivery service, WATS service, 24-hour service, corporate hotel rates, corporate traveler card, travel management and computerized reports.

General manager Carol Dieroff can be reached at 855-5600.

The agency is a Division of Maritz Inc., based in St. Louis, Mo.

ACCOUNT EXEC

Colleen Reeves was named an account executive at Bannell & Co., Farmington Hills.

The Wixom resident joined the agency in May 1985 as an assistant account executive.

Reeves is a member of the Public Relations Society of America, Women in Communications and MacInnis Associates.

Bannell & Co. is a full-service counseling firm offering communications and marketing support services.

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