



# NEWSLETTER

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The Majority Leader, however, added his recognition that this is an ambitious schedule.



## DOT Allows Therapists to be SAPs

The U.S. Department of Transportation published a final rule this week that adds state-certified marriage and family therapists (MFTs) to the list of persons who can perform the duties of Substance Abuse Professional under the drug and alcohol testing regulations.

MFTs had previously been prohibited from serving as SAPs because they are not licensed or certified in all states.

Last year's highway bill directed DOT to include MFTs in those states where they are licensed, resulting in the new rule.

As you know, you are required to refer a driver who tests positive for either drugs or alcohol to a SAP, regardless of whether you terminate the driver or provide an employee assistance program.

In addition, the SAP must sign off on a driver who has tested positive before the driver can resume safety-sensitive duties.

Only Montana and West Virginia do not certify or license MFTs. The new rule does not allow therapists in those states to be SAPs. The rule is effective September 22, 2006.



## Look for the Next Quarterly Mailing!

NSTA members will be receiving the next quarterly mailing in the next couple of weeks. Inside you will find:

- ★ Mid-Winter meeting information
- ★ The latest news on new membership benefits
- ★ Great ideas on celebrating School Bus Safety Week
- ★ Special offers from supplier members
- ★ A Needs Assessment Survey
- ★ And more!

Please call NSTA Headquarters if you have any questions or would like additional information on the items included in the mailing.



## National School Bus Safety Week October 15 – 21, 2006

Promote school bus safety in your school! The National School Bus Safety Week Committee has (free) 11"x17" colored posters for you to use, promoting the 2006 National School Bus Safety Week.

To order your posters, call the NSTA office (888-222-NSTA) and let them know how many you would like sent to you.



## Hearings on Alaskan Pipeline Shutdown Announced

Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee Chairman Pete Domenici (R-NM) has announced a September 12 hearing on the recent partial shutdown by BP in Prudhoe Bay, Alaska. "I want the Committee to look at the situation and explore some options for easing the impact this problem could have on American consumers and businesses," Domenici said in a statement.

House Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman Joe Barton (R-TX) has scheduled a similar hearing for September 7 on this issue.



## Mark Your Calendars!

NSTA will hold its **Midwinter Meeting** from **January 27<sup>th</sup> to January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2007** in Tucson, Arizona at Loews Ventana Canyon Resort. Room rates for the Meeting are \$219 single or double occupancy.

The discounted rooms are limited and will be available until the block is sold out or until December 29, 2006 – whichever comes sooner. You can make your reservations by calling the resort at (520) 299-2020.