

Preparing for the Holiday Season

Plan in advance for best options

All holiday shippers should begin to think about their holiday shipping needs in early November.

Generally, the winter holidays tend to be the busiest shipping time of the year. If not planned for in advance, a shipper may be left in the lurch.

Some things to consider while planning are that Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and New Years Day are all no service days. All domestic shipping companies are closed. Limited service is provided on the days before and after those holidays as well.

If you have daily scheduled pick-ups around the holidays, make note of what your specific shipper's holiday hours are so that you are not caught off guard. If you're closing early on a scheduled pick-up day, be sure to notify your shipper as well.

With advance planning, holiday shipping can be a successful process for all involved.



In this issue

Recent Industry Happenings **S.1**

Eastern Connection/Avon **S.2**

Recent Trade Shows **S.3**

Preparing for the Holiday Season **S.4**

Recent Industry Happenings

On September 17, 2009, FedEx announced their 2010 express shipping rates. Effective January 4, 2010, Express and Freight rates will increase an average of 5.9% domestically, partially offset by a fuel surcharge reduction, also in effect January 4.

The United States Post Office recently announced a price reduction for their domestic Priority Mail Flat Rate Envelope. Beginning January 4, 2010, there will be a 5 cent reduction in the price to result in a total cost of \$4.90.

Ontrac, a regional time-sensitive package delivery company, servicing California, Arizona, Nevada, Oregon, Washington and Utah, has begun a corporate blog. Through this medium they will share with customers shipping tips and industry updates. To read their blog, visit <http://blog.ontrac.com/>.

Eastern Connection/Avon Partnership Grows

Eastern Connection's partnership with Avon will grow exponentially going into 2010. For the past two years, Eastern Connection has provided dedicated service to two of Avon's major markets in the Northeast. Recently, other markets were put out in an RFP, and Eastern Connection was awarded six new markets to provide dedicated delivery service to.

Recent Trade Shows a Success

Eastern Connection attended two trade shows during the last weeks of October. EC exhibited at the New York Business to Business Xpo at the Javit's Center in New York City on October 21. This show boasted thousands of attendees and had a non-stop flow of people roaming through the Exhibit Hall.

The second show that EC attended was the Plymouth Area Chamber of Commerce's first annual Regional Business Link on October 29 in Plymouth, MA. The Chamber of Commerce has over 750 member companies based on the South Shore of Massachusetts. Walking at the event provided excellent local visibility for Eastern Connection.