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### **RILEY AND SONS INVESTS IN NEW ALUMINUM TECHNOLOGY**

In January 2017, Riley and Sons made an investment in Aluminum repair technology. Since then, Riley technicians have undergone extensive training to properly handle these repairs.

“A vast and consistent rise of aluminum vehicles are now being manufactured. Investing in the proper equipment and training just made sense.”

Government CAFE (Corporate Average Fuel Economy) standards are set for 50 mpg by the year 2025. This standard will demand manufacturers to lighten vehicle bodies in order to become more fuel efficient. By making a switch to an aluminum body, the average vehicle will become at least 400 lbs lighter causing fuel efficiency levels to become substantially higher.

“Aluminum is the most readily available metal on earth. It is a great resource for vehicle production. However, it is more difficult to work with from a repair stand point.”

The repair procedure for aluminum requires greater care and attention to detail. Technicians will have to use a myriad of different repair methods on these vehicles. Aluminum does not have memory like that of steel. It requires specific heat temperatures to be able to rework the metal without disintegrating it. Technicians will also have to use aluminum specific tools and a separated and clean space for restoration to avoid galvanic corrosion. If they were to use the same tools on aluminum as steel or if steel particles were to fall on the vehicle, it would cause corrosion as well as paint and cohesion failure.

“The repair process is critical”, says Dave Driggers Co-Owner of Riley & Sons, “This is why we made the investment. For 60 years we have made investments that would give our customers the highest quality repairs. Aluminum is the future of the auto industry and we want to be prepared.”

Aluminum vehicles have numerous benefits. Fuel efficiency is one of its top ranking factors. Its energy absorption properties, combined with intelligent vehicle design, make these vehicles among the very safest on the road. They also have an extraordinary resistance to corrosion. Overall, they are more cost effective and provide additional safety for you and your family.

When Dave was asked why many dealerships and repair facilities have not made this investment he explained, “Most people fail to recognize the importance and vital part that aluminum will play in the future. By investing in this technology now, before the influx of vehicles hit the market, will give us an advantage over our competition. We will have experience and expertise in these repairs before most people start investing.”

Riley and Sons locations are now equipped to handle repairs on Aluminum bodied vehicles.