



## NEWS RELEASE

### MAINE DISTRICT OFFICE

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### **FORD S. REICHE, PRESIDENT OF SAFE HANDLING, INC., NAMED SBA'S 2008 MAINE SMALL BUSINESS PERSON OF THE YEAR**

Augusta, Maine – Ford S. Reiche, President of Safe Handling, Inc., will receive the U. S. Small Business Administration's (SBA) Maine Small Business Person of the Year award for 2008. "Ford Reiche exemplifies the business expertise, commitment, creativity and community involvement sought in the selection of the Small Business Person of the Year," said Sandy Blitz, New England Regional Administrator of the SBA.

"This distinction is most appreciated," said Reiche. "I want to note that Safe Handling's success is attributable in largest part to the Lewiston-Auburn community. Our devoted staff comes from 100 hard working families here, and the Auburn city officials have been actively supportive of Safe Handling from the beginning," he said.

Safe Handling, Inc. is a full-service, bulk product transportation and toll processing company. The company operates the largest rail-to-truck transloading facility in Maine and a facility in Western Pennsylvania allowing its customers to leverage the benefits of both rail and trucking. It handles over 300 products, including industrial chemicals, plastics and fuels. Safe Handling, Inc. has ISO 9001:2000 certified manufacturing facilities where it blends liquid chemicals for regional deliveries.

Safe Handling, Inc.'s facilities have grown to handling nearly 4,000 railcars and 12,000 truckloads of industrial raw materials per year, primarily serving Maine's paper industry. Today they handle virtually all the bio diesel imported into Maine.

Congressman Michaud, who nominated Reiche, said, "It would be difficult to find a better corporate citizen than Ford Reiche. He sets the standard for his company and his employees. Safe Handling, their employees and Ford are responsible members of the community who dedicate both time and money to the greater Lewiston/Auburn area."

Safe Handling was founded in 1989 in Auburn, Maine, by Ford Reiche, Howard Reiche and Paul Turina, and currently employs nearly 100 people. Safe Handling operates this new 150-acre transload facility; a 55-acre transload warehouse and toll processing facility on the Rodman Road in Auburn as well as a facility near Pittsburg, Pennsylvania

Reiche will be honored at the SBA luncheon awards celebration on May 16<sup>th</sup> in Lewiston.