



Fastenal Company Announces Cash Dividend

WINONA, Minn., Jan. 17, 2012 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- The Fastenal Company of Winona, MN (Nasdaq:FAST) reported its Board of Directors declared a dividend of \$0.17 per share to be paid in cash on February 29, 2012 to shareholders of record at the close of business on February 1, 2012. The Company has paid a dividend in every year since 1991 and began paying semi-annual dividends in 2003, (with a third 'supplemental' dividend in both 2010 and 2008). In January 2011, our Board of Directors declared a semi-annual dividend, and then announced quarterly dividends in April, July, and October 2011. Our Board of Directors intends to continue paying quarterly dividends, provided that any future determination as to payment of dividends will depend upon the financial condition and results of operations of the Company and such other factors as are deemed relevant by the Board of Directors.

Dividend and stock repurchase activity in the last ten years are as follows:

Year	Dividend payments	Dividends per share			Total value of repurchased shares (000's)	Per share price of repurchased shares
		Total dividends paid (000's)	Regular dividend	Total dividend		
2012 (1)	One	\$ 50,194	\$ 0.17	\$ 0.17	\$ --	\$ --
2011	Four	\$ 191,741	\$ 0.65	\$ 0.65	\$ --	\$ --
2010 (2)	Three	\$ 182,814	\$ 0.41	\$ 0.62	\$ --	\$ --
2009	Two	\$ 106,943	\$ 0.36	\$ 0.36	\$ 41,104	\$ 18.69
2008 (2)	Three	\$ 117,474	\$ 0.26	\$ 0.395	\$ 25,958	\$ 22.00
2007	Two	\$ 66,216	\$ 0.22	\$ 0.22	\$ 87,312	\$ 20.93
2006	Two	\$ 60,548	\$ 0.20	\$ 0.20	\$ 17,294	\$ 18.25
2005	Two	\$ 46,935	\$ 0.155	\$ 0.155	\$ 18,739	\$ 13.38
2004	Two	\$ 30,350	\$ 0.10	\$ 0.10	\$ --	\$ --
2003	Two	\$ 15,935	\$ 0.053	\$ 0.053	\$ --	\$ --

(1) Note: The 2012 dividend payments include the impact from this dividend announcement. The total dividend paid amount for 2012 includes an estimate from this announcement using the 295.3 million shares outstanding on December 31, 2011.

(2) The 2010 and 2008 Dividends include two regular payments totaling \$0.41 and \$0.26 per share, respectively, plus a supplemental dividend paid in December of each year.

All information reflects the two-for-one stock splits effected in the form of a stock dividend in both 2005 and 2011.

Fastenal sells different types of industrial and construction supplies in the following product categories: threaded fasteners and miscellaneous supplies; tools; metal cutting tool blades and abrasives; fluid transfer components and accessories for hydraulic and pneumatic power; material handling; storage and packaging products; janitorial, chemical and paint products; electrical supplies; welding supplies; safety supplies; metals, alloys and materials; and office supplies.

Additional information regarding Fastenal is available on the Fastenal Company World Wide Web site at www.fastenal.com.

The Fastenal Company logo is available at <http://www.globenewswire.com/newsroom/prs/?pkgid=6432>

This press release contains statements that are not historical in nature and that are intended to be, and are hereby identified as, "forward looking statements" as defined in the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995, including a statement regarding expectations as to payment of a quarterly cash dividend in the foreseeable future. Any future determination as to payment of dividends will depend upon the financial condition and results of operations of the Company and such other factors as are deemed relevant by the Board of Directors. For example, a change in business needs including working capital and

funding for acquisitions, or a change in tax law relating to dividends, could cause the Company to decide not to pay a dividend in the future. A discussion of other risks and uncertainties is included in the Company's 2010 annual report on Form 10-K under the section captioned "Risk Factors" and the Company's 2010 annual and 2011 quarterly reports under the section captioned "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations." FAST-D

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