



CONTACT US:

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Wethersfield Repair Facility

60 State Street (rear)
Wethersfield, CT 06109
860-529-0500

Norwich Repair Facility

171 Salem Turnpike
Norwich, CT 06360
860-885-2153

New Haven Repair Facility

140 Pond Lily Avenue
New Haven, CT 06515
203-397-4590

After Hours Emergencies

Call **1-877-454-4204** (toll-free)
Your call will be answered through the Department of Environmental Protection Dispatch Office, which will assist you.

Online

Go to www.das.state.ct.us and click on **FLEET OPERATIONS** for additional information on fueling locations, accident forms and mileage reports.

In mid-August we learned that our 2010 budget for vehicle replacement had been approved. This was great news, although the approval came with only two weeks remaining before the DAS vehicle purchasing contract was to expire on August 31 (with a new one not yet in place). This created a couple of busy weeks, and didn't allow for as much communication between Fleet Operations and user agencies regarding replacement vehicles as we would have liked to have had before placing the order. However, we can purchase more vehicles later in the year, so we are confident that we will be able to satisfy any needs not addressed by the vehicles that we just ordered. And to further help with the ordering of replacement vehicles we received a bit of good news just a few days before the contract was set to expire – it was extended for a couple of months until a new contract can be finalized.

Out with the Old In with the New

Our initial plan is to replace vehicles that have in excess of 120,000 miles and are more than six years old. So far we have ordered 225 vehicles, primarily Ford Focus and Fusion models. They will be used to replace many 2001 and 2002 cars that are counted on to provide reliable service. Over the next few months we will continue the process of identifying additional vehicles that should be sent to surplus and ordering replacements as needed. During this period we will communicate our plans to affected agencies in order to confirm which vehicles are to be taken out of service and determine what the most appropriate replacements will be.

WiFi is Coming



Very soon state employees will be able to add DAS repair garages to the list of locations with wireless internet access. Yes, along with McDonalds, Starbucks, and the local library, DAS garages will be another place where State of Connecticut employees with outside responsibilities and laptops can log on to the Internet while waiting for repairs on their cars. Wireless connectivity will be introduced at the New Haven shop - hopefully by mid-October. We intend to roll out the same service to our Wethersfield and Norwich garages shortly thereafter. Stay tuned for updates!

Emissions Due?

You are probably aware that along with privately-owned vehicles, DAS cars and light-duty trucks must have their emissions tested periodically. The good news is that all three of our maintenance locations have the capability to perform this required testing, thereby making it convenient to everyone. And there is no charge to agencies for this service.

The way it works is that when a DAS vehicle is coming due for emissions testing, DMV sends a notification (roughly 60 days in advance). Once we receive it, Fleet Operations staff notifies the agency's vehicle coordinator and/or ATA to alert them. To the best of our knowledge this process has proven to be very effective.

However, we need to alert each agency of a change that could bring an additional expense. As a way to enhance revenue, earlier this year a late fee tied to the DMV emissions program was enacted. Specifically, it requires that every vehicle which does not undergo testing by the expiration date will be subject to a \$20 late fee. Here's the bad news, unfortunately DAS vehicles are not exempt from this penalty. So every late test generates a \$20 charge that comes back to DAS. Because it is each agencies' responsibility to get their cars tested for emissions, DAS will pass along the \$20 late fee to agencies for any vehicles that do not complete emissions testing on time (unless, of course, we failed to notify you initially).

Please alert all supervisors of staff who use DAS-owned vehicles, along with any vehicle coordinators that may assist you with the management of your fleet, so that they are aware.

DOT Fuel Station Closings

The furlough days coming up on the day after Thanksgiving and the Monday after Christmas could be in conflict with DOT employees who have snow and ice removal assignments. Therefore, the DOT has announced that their fueling stations will be closed on October 8 so that these employees can have alternate furlough days. (They were also closed on September 3.)

Please note that the fueling station on Buckingham Street in Hartford is the only station operated by DAS. This station will be open on October 8 from 7:30 a.m. – 4:45 p.m. Like most other state agencies, DAS furlough days will be observed on the day after Thanksgiving and on December 27, the Monday after Christmas.

Fleet Utilization

Here is a look at the utilization of our fleet of 3,300 vehicles. This view shows those that travel the fewest number of miles. While many of these vehicles are for

plowing and facility maintenance, and therefore stay almost exclusively on campus, we encourage all ATA's to review their low mileage vehicles and have the staff responsible justify continuing to keep them.

Each agency ATA has the ability to review their agency's performance by looking at "average monthly utilization" under the select a report heading.

Average Monthly Utilization
(prior 12 months)

