



DAS FLEET NEWSLETTER

inroads

April 2009

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Administration

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Wethersfield Repair Facility

60 State Street (rear)
Wethersfield, CT 06109
860-566-7826

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.

Many of you know this address as the address on our bumper stickers inviting the public to report instances of perceived poor driving or inappropriate activity with a state-owned vehicle. But it is more than that. It can be an easy-to-remember link to access the Fleet website. Our official address to Fleet Operations is http://www.das.state.ct.us/Fleet/fleet_blue.asp, but if you prefer just go to Fleet.ct.gov and hit the Fleet Operations button and you will be at our web page.

Fleet.ct.gov

Am I driving safely?

FLEET.CT.GOV

Besides information on our repair facilities and fueling locations you can find various forms, including accident-related, GL-115 and even previous copies of our newsletter – *Inroads*. So whichever way works best for you, know that we have a location designed to provide the information that you need to support the administration of your fleet.

Parking Tickets

To help facilitate the prompt payment to municipalities for any parking violations we ask that you re-

mind all employees who operate a state-owned vehicle that the responsible party for payment is the driver of the vehicle, not their agency, and not DAS. When informing your drivers, feel free to reference General letter 115 - it clearly states that parking tickets are the personal liability of the driver (page 5). Also point out that one benefit to the driver is that if a parking ticket is promptly paid it will save them some money.

When tickets are not paid within the initial payment window (often 10 days) the fine doubles and ultimately DAS, as the owner of the vehicle, is notified. We have worked with a number of towns and cities to send us copies of the tickets

given to DAS-owned vehicles on a monthly basis. When they arrive at our office they are broken down by agency and passed along. We ask that you investigate and process for payment, or better yet, have the driver responsible make the payment directly to the municipality and supply you with a copy of the receipt indicating that it was paid - just in case it is needed in the future.

Since last fall we have been able to more quickly communicate parking ticket information and it has paid off, as the number of tickets we receive each month is now averaging about half of what we received just six months ago. We send a big thank you to all agencies, ATA's, supervisors and drivers for their roles in leading the effort to continuously shrink the number of tickets that we receive.

BEST in CLASS

We've all heard this phrase applied to everything from appliances to technology. In the coming months and years we will be using that term in Fleet Operations. As part of Executive Order 22 issued by Governor Rell in January, "best in class" will apply to vehicles that DAS purchases. Specifically, "cars and trucks shall have a best in class designation for fuel economy as determined by the Environmental Protection Agency, unless the Commissioner determines that the vehicles required by the provisions of Executive Order 22 are not available, or that their purchase is not fiscally prudent."

This will help ensure that fuel economy stays in the forefront of our minds at all times – regardless if fuel is \$1.50, or \$4.00 per gallon.

Currently, we are not purchasing replacement vehicles. But when circumstances allow us to once again replace cars and trucks that are fully utilized, you can be certain that "best in class" will be part of the replacement equation. Additionally, DAS shall use its best efforts to maximize the percentage of alternative-fueled vehicles in the state motor vehicle fleet pursuant to requirements set forth in 10 CFR 490.

FLEET FACTS

This chart shows, in detail, the make-up of our fleet by type of fuel. The current moratorium on vehicle purchases will leave things much the same for the time being, with the likely exception of there being a reduction in the bi-fuel category, as most of the vehicles that make up this section are 2000 and 2002 models, many of which will no doubt be turned in by agencies as part of their efforts to be in compliance with the Governor's Executive Order 22 issued in January.

Moving On



After 23 years of employment with the state, all of them working in Fleet Operations, Beverly Powers decided that it was time to move on to the next phase of her life and has retired effective April 1st. We thank Bev for service and will miss all of the things that she has done over the years to support the effective administration of our 4,000 vehicle fleet.

Although we do not have the option to hire a replacement for Bev at this time, we recognize that the need to support functions like insurance administration, vehicle registration and the fleet data-base will not stop in her absence.

To support these activities going forward, we have taken the following steps. In February we re-assigned Pam Bowe from the Wethersfield maintenance facility to join the administrative team in our Hartford office. Pam is quickly learning many of the activities that are necessary to support our mission, and her education will continue into the future. Because the state's current fiscal climate will not allow us to refill the position at this time, we have asked Al Landry, also based in Wethersfield to temporarily come up and lend a hand. With diverse Fleet Operations experience, most recently working to help lead the Wethersfield team, Al has gained significant knowledge on our fleet management system and many of the support activities necessary to keep our cars and trucks running.

Together Pam and Al have over 35 years of service at Fleet Operations, giving us confidence that within a short period of time they will be fully up to speed.

FLEET COMPOSITION BY FUEL TYPE

