



# inroads

December 2011

**CONTACT US:**

**Administration**

Frank Sanzo, *Director*  
(860) 713-5155  
Jim Palmer, *Asst. Director*  
(860) 713-5153  
Mike Gosselin (860) 670-4744  
Lawrence Gore (860) 713-5151  
Pam Bowe (860) 713-5157  
Yanira Segarra (860) 713-5158

**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: <http://das.ct.gov> and click on **FLEET OPERATIONS** for additional information on fueling locations, accident forms and mileage reports.

Whenever the situation calls for an additional vehicle, think of DAS Fleet. All DAS Fleet locations (Hartford, Wethersfield, Norwich and New Haven) offer a variety of cars and trucks to meet your temporary needs.

## Rental Update

Options include sedans, vans, box-trucks and 4wd Ford Escapes. Whatever your requirements, we should have the appropriate vehicle to support your short-term agency transportation needs.

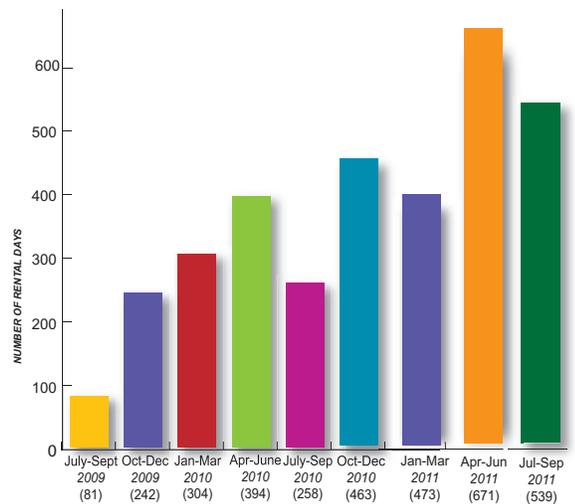
The number of rentals continues to increase, as evidenced by the graph below. The July – October period realized a 109% increase over the same period in 2010 and was more

than six times greater than 2009. As a result of these increased rentals we have been able to add more vehicles to the rental pool.

This growth in the number of vehicle rentals is an indicator to us that our expanded rental program better meets each agency's needs, but we are interested in what you think. If you have an idea on additional features or locations that would better suit your agency's programs, please share your thoughts with us.

For your convenience, our rate schedule can also be found at <http://www.das.state.ct.us/crl.aspx?page=11>.

*Number of vehicle rental days by quarter*



## Winter Tips

Who can forget the snowstorms of January of 2011? Or for that matter, the pile of white stuff that arrived on October 29th? As we approach the official start to winter it's a great time to remind all drivers of DAS vehicles to make sure that their windshield wipers are in good condition and washer fluid topped off. Although these items are checked and addressed at each service, it is certainly possible that

they will need attention at some point before the vehicle is due back. All drivers of DAS vehicles should be aware that they can stop by any of our maintenance facilities to replace wipers or washer fluid. No appointment is necessary – although an advance call is always appreciated.

In the United States, many vehicles have been equipped with daytime running lights for years, ever since General Motors began installing them in the mid-1990's (currently GM installs daytime running lights on all of its vehicles). In some other countries the use of daytime running lights is not an option. For example, in February of 2011 they became mandatory for all new vehicles being registered in Europe.

And previously Canada required them beginning in 1990, while Sweden was the first country to mandate their use way back in 1977.

## Daytime Running Lights

For as long as they have been used, the debate has continued over how effective daytime running lights (DRLs) have been in reducing accidents. In an effort to determine this the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) conducted a study on "The Effectiveness of Daytime Running Lights for Passenger Vehicles" and published their findings in September 2008.

Their comprehensive study included many thousands of accidents over a five-year period that fell into one of three accident-type classifications. Vehicle type information was also tracked. The purpose was to determine if it could be proved that vehicles with DRLs had reduced accidents over similar vehicles without DRLs.

The following is taken directly from the final report; *The analysis found that DRLs have no statistically significant overall effects on the three target crashes. When combining these three target crashes into one target crash, the DRL effects were also not statistically significant. When examined separately for passenger cars and light trucks/vans (LTVs), DRLs in LTVs significantly reduced LTVs' involvements in the target two-vehicle crashes by 5.7 percent. However, the remaining DRL effects on these three target crashes were not statistically significant.*

Considering the high cost of accidents, and NHTSAs documentation that light-trucks and vans are more likely to be involved in an accident if they are not equipped with DRLs, we will include DRLs as part of the vehicle spec for this class of vehicles going forward.

## Glove Box Info

Recently we have been getting calls from agencies regarding

their drivers getting questioned about the lack of insurance cards in our vehicles.

We wanted to remind all ATAs that an information envelope should be in the glove box of each DAS vehicle. It has been designed to serve a couple of purposes. First, it will be an easy-to-identify holder for vehicle registration. Second, printed on the face of the envelope is information on what to do in case of an accident, insurance contact information, emergency numbers for Fleet Operations, and the statute number that exempts us from carrying insurance cards in our vehicles.

We hope that by showing the envelope to an officer (or reciting the statute number), any skepticism that he/she may have about why we cannot produce an insurance card will be eliminated.

### Printed on the envelope:

- Contact Police
- Obtain Police information slip with case #
- Contact supervisor/complete on-line accident form within 48 hours
- Insurance Information Per **General Statute 14-12F**:
- State-owned vehicles are not required to carry insurance cards
- Specialty Risk Services (**State Account #42561**)

### SERVICE BREAKDOWNS

**Wethersfield** - 60 State Street (rear) (860) 529-0500

**Norwich** - 171 Salem Turnpike (860) 885-2153

**New Haven** - 140 Pond Lily Ave. (203) 397-4590

**After hours, call 1 (877) 454-4204**

- Contact Fleet Operations at **(860) 713-5160** with any questions