



inroads

December 2010

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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

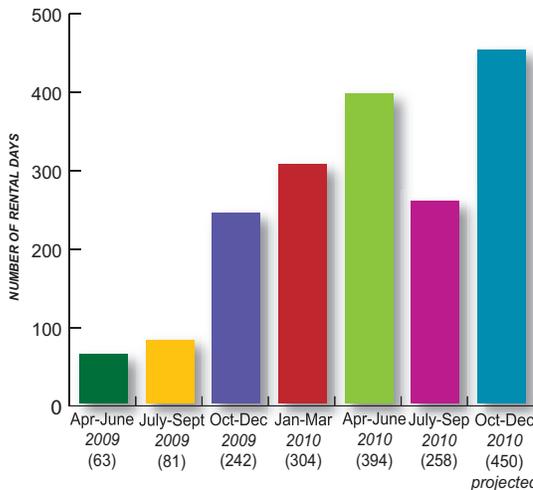
Call **1-877-454-4204** (toll-free)
Your call will be answered through
the Department of Environmental
Protection Dispatch Office, which
will assist you.

Online

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

In January of 2009 Governor Rell issued Executive Order 22, which covered numerous fleet-related items including the requirement that interagency carpools be established wherever geographically feasible. Prior to this directive, the only location that offered rental vehicles was the Fleet administrative office in Hartford.

Rental Vehicles



By June of 2009, we had expanded the number of locations which offered rentals to include our three vehicle maintenance facilities – located in Wethersfield, New Haven and Norwich. It wasn't necessary to purchase any vehicles to stock these rental fleets as the ramp up of rental operations coincided with the 20% reduction of vehicles on lease to agencies.

The results show that the combination of fewer cars on lease along with increased rental opportunities has allowed us to dramatically increase our rental business. (See graph to the left). If your agency needs a temporary car please think of us first. Rental procedures and rates are available at the Fleet page on the DAS site.

There are still a few spots remaining!

Driver training

We have room for a few more people to participate in the December 7 training session that will focus on winter driving skills. The class begins at 10:00 a.m. and lasts approximately one hour. If there is anyone in your agency who could benefit from a refresher course on how to drive in winter conditions let's get them enrolled. For more information please call our Fleet Operations

Safety Coordinator, Lawrence Gore, at 860-713-5151.

And remember, we can make a visit to your agency to conduct training on several driving-related topics. Just give us a call and identify your needs.

Electronic Billing for Fleet

Has anyone from your agency signed up yet to review and approve the new electronic bill? Now would be a good time to double-check, because beginning in January the paper version will be permanently replaced by our new electronic format. Your last paper bill for Fleet rental and leasing services will be December 2010.

As of December 1, approximately 40 agencies haven't yet had a staff member sign up for the billing review role that is needed in order to check and approve the charges each month.

If the person(s) responsible for reviewing and approving the monthly fleet bill are not part of your work unit, please forward this newsletter so that they may be reminded to sign up.

Should you have any questions on how to sign up, or if your agency has had someone register for this role, just give us a call.

Toyota Update

A few months back we alerted you of the recall for a modification to the floor mats in the Toyota Prius. We initially had over 300 vehicles affected by this recall and are now down to just a couple dozen to go. Our maintenance facilities will continue to follow up with agencies to get the last few taken care of. Thanks for your assistance.

Also, Toyota has just announced that they need to replace the pump that cools the hybrid system on 650,000 2004 -2007 Prius cars. There are about 200 in the DAS fleet. When the pump malfunctions, the car's hybrid system switches off to prevent overheating and the vehicle's regular gasoline engine takes over. But the Japanese automaker is adamant the repair being carried out worldwide isn't another recall. A spokesman for Toyota is calling the move a "customer satisfaction campaign" because the problem doesn't warrant a recall under regulations where the vehicles have been sold.

Toyota said there have been no reports of accidents related to the coolant problem, but 300 problems were reported in Japan, and 28 outside of Japan. It was not immediately clear when owners were being notified to bring their cars in for repair.

