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Wethersfield Repair Facility

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Wethersfield, CT 06109
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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.

Beginning with the new year it was out with the old and in with the new, at least as it pertains to lease and rental bills from Fleet. The change to our new electronic format became official on January 1. The review and edit period ended at the close of business on January 5, and many agencies have already processed their payment. Thanks to everyone for their support in helping to make this significant change a success.

Electronic Billing It Worked!!



It appears that every agency has at least one person who has been granted the "Agency Billing Review" role. However, it is possible to have multiple reviewers, so depending on the organizational structure of your agency you may wish for more than one person to be assigned this role. To sign up, just go to the Fleet page of the DAS website and click on the **View Agency Billing** link. If there are any questions just give our office a call.

We want to make sure that we are doing all that we can to make receiving and reviewing your fleet bills in this new format easy and effective. Towards that end, we are interested in any feedback that you have regarding the new process. If there is something that you would like to share, either give us a call, or send an email to das.fleet@ct.gov. Here are several comments that we have received to date:

- "We are pleased that the new online system includes all the information from the paper system. And, it is much easier to use and far more timely." Brenda Halpin, Comptroller's Office.
- Ann Williams, CFO at DPS had this to say, "I actively use the new on-line billing system. It is really great." She also noted that she is using the export to Excel to do business analysis on her vehicle information.
- Tracie Gadrow, DOC Industries and Board of Pardons said, "I really like the new format. It is very easy to work with and has more detail." She is also beginning to work with the export to Excel feature to assist with her business analysis of Fuel and Lease information.

New Haven Gas

The extreme winter weather is playing havoc with the construction schedule for the installation of new tanks at the Pond Lilly garage in New Haven. We will update you when fuel is once again available at this location.

From the perspective of many people, January came in bad and only got worse. Besides setting a record for the most snow EVER in one month when almost five feet of the white stuff fell from the sky, we were exposed to some brutal cold with nighttime temps going to -10!

What a Winter!



Everything is impacted by extreme weather, even cars. To minimize breakdowns caused by mechanical issues, when vehicles are serviced our shops closely inspect a number of components including all safety-related items and charging systems. It's not just change the oil and go. However, that doesn't mean that things can't ever go wrong - and when they do we are available to help. Two of the more common occurrences related to winter driving are;

- running out of windshield washer fluid
- wiper blades becoming worn or broken (scrapping ice away from blades and wiper arms before turning the wipers on is strongly recommended)

Drivers need to know that they can stop by one of our maintenance facilities should they experience this type of minor problem. No advance appointment is necessary, although a heads up is always appreciated.

An important winter reminder – please request that your employees remove snow from DAS vehicles before beginning their trip. Having maximum vision and eliminating the chance of snow flying off of your car and becoming a distraction or danger for others makes good sense, and it will be law in 2013.

For agencies that use DAS trucks with snowplows, we understand that clearing the snow from your parking lot is a priority, therefore we will do whatever we can to repair plow vehicles as quickly as possible. And we recognize that plowing snow can be very hard on equipment (already this year we have seen bent plows and bent and broken frames).

Plowing

The combination of having a limited number of plow vehicles along with the high cost of stocking components that rarely fail means that our parts inventory for these items is not extensive. Therefore, there will be times when it is just not possible to repair the plow as quickly as an agency may hope. And because of the high cost and special use, we need to remind you that we do not have spare plow trucks that can be provided as loaners.

To help minimize damage that puts plow vehicles out of service, we encourage every agency that utilizes their staff for plowing to make certain all vehicle operators are trained in the proper use of this specialized equipment by someone who is experienced and who has established an excellent safety record. If you do not have a qualified trainer in your agency, or if you want to provide employees an opportunity to further develop their skills in this area, we have contact information for plow training classes. However, there are certain class size and fee requirements. Feel free to contact Lawrence Gore for details.

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The wireless connection in New Haven is still under construction. Stay tuned!