



inroads

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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:
<http://das.ct.gov> and click on **FLEET
OPERATIONS** for additional infor-
mation on fueling locations, acci-
dent forms and mileage reports.

Safe, accident-free driving should be a primary goal for everyone that drives a state vehicle. Many factors contribute to performance in this critical area. They include training, experience, weather considerations, distractions and a whole host of intangibles that can impact an otherwise accident-free day.

Driver Training

To help positively affect our driving results, Fleet Operations employee Lawrence Gore is available to meet with your drivers to address a variety of training needs. Training options include an all-encompassing program that is especially helpful to any driver of a state vehicle that has not yet participated in any state-sponsored driver training program.

These sessions often consist of 10-20 people in an interactive training program taught by Lawrence designed to create awareness and teach new skills. Lawrence is also working to finalize backing and weather-related classes which will be targeted to develop, or improve, a specific skill, especially since the vast majority of our accidents involve backing or are weather-related. Additionally, Lawrence can conduct one-on-one training sessions to address agency specific concerns as a result of supervisor, co-worker or client observations, violations, complaints, accidents, or a combination thereof. Training can be held at the State Office Building in Hartford, or Lawrence can come to you.

We encourage you to alert all supervisors within your agency who oversee employees who drive state-owned vehicles, to let them know that Fleet has resources which can be utilized to improve the driving skills of your staff. By sharing any driving concerns or to identify employees new to driving a state vehicle with Lawrence, a plan to address the need can be developed and carried out.

It is hoped that by providing the necessary training we can not only improve driving skills but correct any bad habits to eliminate, or at least minimize future accidents.

Got a Dirty Car?



A clean car is a happy car! There are many carwash vendors located throughout Connecticut who are on the state contract. A complete listing can be found at http://das.ct.gov/images/1090/DASCarWash_CurrentListing.pdf. This link can also be found on the Fleet Operations page of the DAS website. All of the info you need is there including address, phone number and hours of operation. So wherever your staff is based, or traveling to there is a location close by - so wash that car!

Involved in an Accident?

What do you do if an agency-owned vehicle has been involved in an accident? The Comptroller's office requires that all accidents be reported. This includes not only the vehicles owned by DOT, Public Safety or DAS, but also any and all that are owned by an agency. To assist with the reporting process, if an agency-owned vehicle is in an accident, you may use the electronic accident report found at the Fleet Operations page of the DAS site. It is also okay to forward the completed report to Fleet.accidents@ct.gov. Even though DAS does not get involved with administering claims involving a non-DAS vehicle, by sending the accident report for an agency-owned vehicle to this link it will also be forwarded to the Comptroller's office which fulfills the reporting requirement. Should you prefer, you may email the report directly to the Comptroller's office.

We encourage all ATAs to share the following with everyone in their agency that either drives a DAS-owned vehicle, or supervises someone who does.

In order to achieve the highest possible miles per gallon, the fuel-efficiency of the car that you drive plays a significant role. But regardless if the vehicle is a full size SUV, or the smallest economy model, driver's actions are critical in order to maximize MPG performance. We encourage drivers to:

- **Avoid idling** - Curbside idling uses fuel, but because the car is going nowhere, it translates into 0 mpg. An automobile may burn more than half a gallon of fuel for every hour spent idling. Unless you are simply dropping off or picking up someone, make it a habit to turn your engine off when waiting at the curb even if it's just for a short period of time. Also, make safety your highest priority and never leave your vehicle unattended with the engine running.
- **Drive your vehicle to warm it up** - Today's automobiles do not need a warm-up period before driving. Even on the coldest morning, running your engine for 30 seconds is all you need before your vehicle is ready to drive, according to *J.D. Power*. This is enough time for the oil to circulate throughout the engine. We do suggest that you try to avoid sudden or severe acceleration during the first few minutes of driving when an engine is cold.
- **Obey your Check Engine light** - Today's automobiles have sophisticated on-board diagnostics (OBD) systems that continually monitor the operation of your vehicle. When the OBD alert light comes on, there is the possibility that your emissions have increased and your fuel economy is going down. For example, if the oxygen sensor has failed, the engine controller goes to a default setting - this increases fuel consumption. Replacing a faulty oxygen sensor could result in a fuel economy improvement of as much as 40%. When the OBD light goes on, bring the vehicle to your closest DAS shop!

Fuel Saving Tips

Many of the best practices for green driving are subtle, but they can add up. Making small changes in your driving can be the most effective way to reduce fuel use and carbon dioxide emissions. What you monitor, you manage...so start adapting a "lead foot" to a "feather foot".

By achieving these directives, each 1% reduction in fuel use will save approximately 16,000 gallons per year in DAS Fleet alone!