

inroads

March 2013



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860-529-0500

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 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.

New Cars



We are in the process of receiving many 2013 vehicles. Models arriving include Ford Focus (both four- and five-door versions) and the Chevy Cruze. We've also ordered some mid-size models, Chevy Malibu and Ford Fusion, to replace our aging Ford Taurus and Chevy Impalas. Although the primary purpose of the new cars is to replace six and seven-year old vehicles, a few will be used to upgrade the rental fleets at each maintenance facility, including the rental location at the Buckingham parking garage in downtown Hartford.

All of these models offer significant mpg improvements over the vehicles they are replacing. Focus models are rated for 27/38 mpg, the Cruze at 26/38 mpg and both the Malibu and Fusion are rated to achieve 26/34 mpg.

In addition to improved mpg, some new vehicles will have a feature that provides a safe solution to the ever-increasing demand for employee accessibility by agency and clients. Specifically, the ability to take phone calls, hands-free. With

this thought in mind some of the four-door and all the five-door Focus that we have ordered will include the SYNC option. SYNC is an integrated communications system that allows users to make hands-free telephone calls, control music and perform other functions with the use of voice command. Most of these vehicles are replacing the 2006 Dodge Stratus and 2005/7 Toyota Prius models. If one of these vehicles is in your fleet then there is a good chance that we will be replacing it soon. If you would like your staff to have a vehicle with this hands-free feature please let us know.

Another vehicle added to the fleet this year is the re-introduced Dodge Dart. We have purchased 50 Dodge Darts to help evaluate this newly launched model. Like the Focus and Cruze, the Darts will primarily replace the 2006 Dodge Stratus. The Dart is larger than the Focus but about the same size as the Cruze. The size does not impact fuel mileage negatively, however, as the window sticker indicates it is rated for 24/34 mpg - far better than the 19/26 mpg rating for the Stratus. We should realize a 25-30% improvement in fuel economy by using the Dart, Cruze, or Focus instead of the Stratus.

Fuel mileage ratings for the Malibu and Fusion are 30% better than those of the Taurus (20/25 mpg) and roughly an 18-20% improvement over the 22/28 mpg rating for the Impala.

Accidents

You've received notice that one of the vehicles you lease from DAS has been involved in an accident, been vandalized, or has been the victim of mystery damage. Perhaps this was a rock to the windshield or maybe an unexplained dent has appeared. So what's the next step?

The State Property Control Manual requires that all instances involving a motor vehicle which result in damage to a vehicle, property, or personal injury, must be reported. This obligation is met by completing a DAS Vehicle Incident/Accident Report. The form can be located on the Fleet page of the DAS website or can be accessed at this link:

[http://das.ct.gov/fleet/VehicleAccidentApril5\[1\].pdf](http://das.ct.gov/fleet/VehicleAccidentApril5[1].pdf). This form is a writeable pdf so

documenting the details of the incident should be quick and easy. Once it is completed, simply forward the report to Fleet.Accidents@ct.gov and you will have met your reporting requirements.

It should be noted that these reporting requirements also apply to any vehicles that your agency may own, not just DAS vehicles. Remember, GL 115 requires that accidents be reported within 48 hours.

Toyota Recall

When you manage a fleet that includes over a dozen different makes and models totaling over 3,500 vehicles, it is inevitable that you will be impacted by a recall from time to time. Within the past few months we have completed recall campaigns with the Dodge Caravan, Chevy Cruze and Ford Crown Victoria, among others. Recently, we were made aware of two recalls involving the Toyota Prius. We feel that it is important to mention this in the newsletter as we still have approximately 300 Prius that remain in service.

Toyota has indicated that the two issues of concern are the water pump, and a steering intermediate extension shaft. The good news is that Toyota has developed remedies for both issues and provided the inspection and repair information, along with any required parts, to their dealers. Our plan is to have Toyota dealers perform the necessary inspections/repairs any time a Prius comes to one of our shops. Most commonly this is for a regularly scheduled service (every six-months or 6,000 miles), but it also would be for service appointments. Drivers will only be inconvenienced if they are accustomed to waiting for their vehicle while it is serviced. To minimize negative impact to your staff while we manage our need to get each recalled Prius to the dealer, we will provide loaners to drivers while their car is out of service .

If a driver is unsure if the recall has been completed on a specific vehicle we suggest that they check with a DAS maintenance facility. To date we have received notices on roughly 150 Prius and dealers have been able to complete the recall actions on about 50 of them.

We thank you in advance for your cooperation with the large recall campaign and apologize for any inconvenience to your agency.