



inroads

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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.

With the retail price for fuel currently above \$4.00 per gallon, everyone is sensitive to how the near record cost impacts their finances. The State of Connecticut is no different. Thankfully, because of our purchasing power and exemption from state tax, the contract price for fuel averages about \$.50 per gallon less than retail, which is still a difficult pill to swallow – especially when the DAS fleet alone uses almost 140,000 gallons a month.

MPG



We recognize that the almost 70 agencies that use DAS vehicles have a variety of needs (including some that require specialty vehicles such as pick-ups and SUVs' that lower MPG performance), however the vast majority of vehicles in our fleet are compact and mid-size sedans. One strategy that is being utilized to combat the high price of fuel is to purchase low-cost fuel efficient models as replacements for vehicles that have completed their useful life. One example is using a Ford Fusion with 23/33 MPG to replace a Dodge Stratus or Ford Taurus that get 19/27 and 18/25 MPG respectively. A second initiative is to reduce the class of the vehicle assigned wherever possible. An example would be replacing some Taurus and Stratus vehicles with Ford Focus models which achieve 25/35 MPG.

The combination of these two strategies will enable us to increase the overall MPG of the DAS fleet. Since late in 2010 when the moratorium on replacement vehicle purchases was lifted, we have begun to introduce the more fuel-efficient vehicles into our fleet as noted above. We expect to see continued improvement in the MPG performance in the coming years, while continuing to supply the vehicles that each agency needs to complete their mission.

Here is a look at our annual mileage and MPG performance over the last couple of years. This data represents vehicles that fuel at DOT/DAS fuel stations.

Year	Fuel used	Total mileage	Change	MPG	Change
2009	1,816,964	34,150,040	- 10.1%	18.7	+ 1.7%
2010	1,641,590	30,972,110	- 9.3%	18.9	+ 1.1%

A story on fuel-efficiency should also include the fact that there is a growing sensitivity to the foreign cars in our fleet - specifically Toyota and Honda hybrids. Many taxpayers have voiced concern over their presence. These hybrids were purchased in accordance with a state statute that requires our fleet to have a certain percentage of vehicles that average over 40 MPG. At the time of their purchase these were the only vehicles – foreign or American, that achieved that target. With the exception of the Chevy Volt that is still the case today.

Fuel Saving Tips

We encourage all ATAs to share the following article with everyone in their agency that either drives a DAS-owned vehicle, or who 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 of whether the vehicle is a full size SUV or the smallest economy model, drivers' actions are critical in order to maximize MPG performance. We encourage drivers to:

- ***Avoid Rapid Starts and Stops*** - Rapid starts and stops, often called “jack rabbit” starts and stops, use fuel and cost money at the gas pump. Gentle acceleration and braking can save more than \$1 per gallon, according to the U.S. EPA.
- ***Keep Rolling in Traffic*** - Slow-and-go is always better than stop-and-go, and not just to reduce traffic congestion woes. Maintaining a constant speed in your commute increases fuel economy, because it takes much more energy to move a stopped vehicle than to keep a vehicle moving. In fact, it can take 20 percent more fuel to accelerate from a full stop than from 5 miles per hour. Drivers who try to achieve the highest mileage possible, often called “hypermilers”, practice looking ahead down the road to anticipate stops and to coast as much as possible.

Many of the best practices for green driving are subtle, but they can add up over a year. Making small changes in your driving can be the most effective way to reduce fuel use and carbon dioxide emissions, and the best part is you can do it today, with whatever vehicle you are currently driving. What you monitor, you manage...so start adapting a “feather foot” instead of a “lead foot”.

The reward for incorporating fuel saving strategies into your driving style is significant, as each 1 percent reduction in fuel consumption by the DAS fleet will save approximately 16,000 gallons a year. More tips are coming next month.

Fleet Billing

Several months of experience with electronic billing has provided enough insight for us to make a small adjustment to the closing date. Beginning with May, billing for the previous month will be closed on the fourth day of the month. This will provide a more compatible interface with Core-CT so that we can ensure billing assignment to the proper period. Impact to agencies will be minimal as our policy will continue to be that any billing errors will be corrected as soon as they are brought to our attention. The only difference is in order to count against the period being billed Fleet will have to be notified by the end of the fourth day of the month.

To review your monthly bill simply log in to your fleet account and select monthly billing review.

WiFi

The installation of equipment that will allow employees with state-issued laptops to access the state's email system at all of our maintenance locations has been completed.