



CONTACT US:

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New Haven Repair Facility

140 Pond Lily Avenue
New Haven, CT 06515
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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.

Buckingham Station

As we announced last month, the fueling station located on Buckingham Street in Hartford will be closing on October 31, 2012.

To help get the message out to as many drivers as possible, we have placed signs announcing this closure at the Buckingham station and at each DAS fleet

maintenance location. Additionally, flyers with the closing information will be available at Buckingham and the three DAS garages. Besides the reminder notification, the flyers include a list of statewide DOT fueling stations.

DOT has assured us that their network of over 60 fueling stations throughout the state can easily accommodate any additional business that this closing will generate. Their closest station is just a few miles away on Jennings Road in Hartford and there are a half dozen more fueling locations in close proximity to Hartford (East Hartford, Glastonbury, Rocky Hill, Newington, Farmington and Windsor). A complete listing is available at: http://www.ct.gov/dot/lib/dot/documents/dpurchasing/abc_station_listing_-_all_state_fuel_stations.pdf

To avoid confusion about car refueling after November 1, please communicate the closing information to the managers and supervisors within your agency in charge of staff who operate DAS vehicles.

In addition to being a fuel station, Buckingham has been the hub of our daily rental program. To minimize inconvenience to our customers, with the cooperation of DAS Statewide Security, we have decided to continue handling rentals from the guard station inside the Buckingham garage. This office is staffed from 6:30 AM – 6:00 PM Monday – Friday. As in the past, drivers will submit their approved rental authorizations to DAS Fleet Operations at least 24 hours prior to needing a vehicle. And when picking up a rental drivers will continue to provide their license and complete the rental form.

As with any change there may be a bump or two in the road – fueling could be one. Without the convenient ability to top off each car when it returns it is the renter's responsibility to fill up if the car goes to a half tank or lower. And remember, the fuel is on us – agencies are not billed for any fuel they use during a daily rental.

On the positive side the new expanded hours offered at the pick-up location will hopefully provide greater convenience when you need to get an early start or have a late day.

Car Wash Contract

The closing date on the supplemental bid for a new carwash contract had a deadline of October 2. DAS/Procurement has reported that their clarified solicitation has not generated the desired number of qualified responses. Procurement staff are continuing to work on getting a new contract in place. In the meantime the current contract has been extended.

Replacement Budget Approved

It's great to report that the budget we proposed for replacement vehicles for the 2012-2013 fiscal year has been approved as presented. That's very good news for sure – but we are reminded that after enduring a two-year “do not buy” order we are still very much in catch-up mode. Our current forecast is that it will take up to three more years before we can return to our replacement guidelines of six years and 100,000 miles. During this period we thank you for your patience.

On the bright side, our new rates will automatically reduce the monthly rental charge for all vehicles to just the administrative fee once a vehicle has completed 72 months in service.

Our primary goals for this year are to replace over 400 cars, 50 minivans, 50 pick-ups, 40 plus wheelchair vehicles and 30 plus prisoner transport vehicles. Finally, there are a dozen or two miscellaneous vehicles that have completed their useful life and need to come out of service.

Prior to ordering a replacement vehicle it is our policy to check with the ATA to verify: (1) if a replacement is required and (2) the most appropriate vehicle to meet the need.

Fleet Rates

New leasing rates went into effect October 1. Looking to the future rates will be based on acquisition costs versus vehicle type/class. Additionally, rates will now include credit for salvage value and vehicles staying in service beyond the 72-month depreciation life.

In late September we sent out instructions to all ATAs on how to access their billing account and review old rates and new rates. Your employees with billing review rights can now access this information. Since the September billing period closed on October 5 it is now possible to compare “old/new” rates for the September period versus August which is what was available beforehand.

The new rates that take effect on October 1, 2012 will be reflected on the bill that comes due for payment in early November.

To help make sure that rates always reflect our true and actual costs we will conduct an annual review of all expenses and revenues related to the DAS/Fleet program so that adjustments can be made as dictated by our performance.