



inroads

March 2011

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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 information on fueling locations, accident forms and mileage reports.

Our daily rental program is continuing to grow! Increased demand, along with the realization that inclement weather doesn't stop the need to do agency business, are considerations that have led us to expand the number and types of vehicles available from our rental fleets.

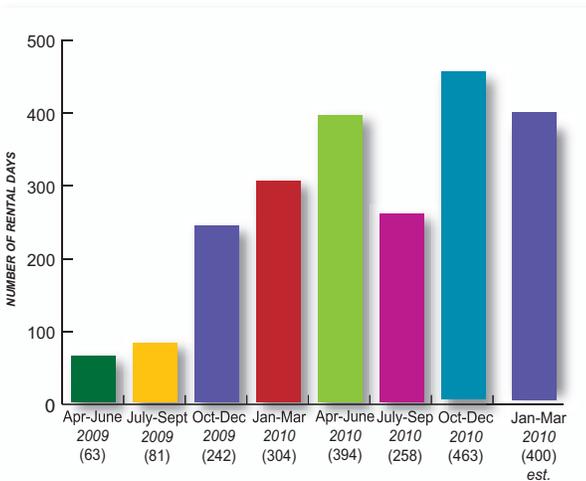
Rental Update

The two most prominent changes are: Ford Fusion sedans are now available as a daily rental from all DAS Fleet maintenance facilities and Buckingham Street, and by this fall each of our four locations will be assigned at least one four-wheel drive Ford Escape. This small SUV will be available for an hourly rate of \$7 or an all-day charge of \$34. **And remember, these low rates include gasoline!**

For your convenience we have included our rate schedule below (it can also be found at <http://www.das.state.ct.us/cr1.aspx?page=11>).

RATES		
Vehicle type	Hourly	Daily
Compact	\$6.00	\$29.00
Intermediate	\$7.00	\$33.00
Mini-van	\$7.00	\$32.00
Small SUV	\$7.00	\$34.00
Hybrid	\$7.00	\$34.00
12-Passenger Van	\$7.00	\$34.00
Box truck	\$11.00	\$52.00

Regarding usage, here's an updated graph that indicates how this temporary vehicle solution has grown over the past couple of years.



If you have need for an extra car from time to time, but not often enough to justify taking one on a permanent lease, think about using a short-term rental from us. Cars can be picked-up at any of our three maintenance locations or at the Buckingham fuel station in Hartford.

Seasonal Vehicles

For agencies that need temporary vehicles to support the spike in services resulting from seasonal demands, now is the time to finalize your list. Due to fiscal restraints over the past several years we have been unable to purchase many new vehicles, which has put a severe strain on our ability to meet all of the requests for “seasonal” vehicles. While we pledge to do our best to make vehicles available, we expect that 2011 will be another difficult year meeting your needs, especially for utility vehicles and pick-up trucks.

The sooner we have your requests - the better.

WiFi

The wireless connection in New Haven has been completed. Anyone with a state-issued laptop can now access the Internet, and employees from agencies that are on the state e-mail system can have access to their e-mail. We expect to have updates on the installation of similar equipment in our Wethersfield and Norwich locations in the near future.

We want to share this excerpt from one agency's communication to its drivers;

Advice to Drivers of State Vehicles

Please remember that when you are using a state vehicle **ANY** and **ALL** violations of state/local motor vehicle laws and/or ordinances that result in an issued infraction for such violation(s) to YOU as the identified driver- **MUST be paid in full by YOU** within the appropriate time frame as defined by the issued ticket. Failure to do so will cause increasing penalties to the original fine that YOU will also still be responsible for paying. Bottom line: If you get a ticket and do not pay it, your agency will be informed.

Driving a state vehicle while conducting state business **DOES NOT** allow you (or any state official) immunity from motor vehicle violations, so extra care should be taken when parking and driving state vehicles- as you would with your own car!

Additionally, GL115 identifies the following as a driver responsibility:

“Notifying his or her Agency Transportation Administrator and the

Director of DAS Fleet Operations within 72 hours if he or she has been convicted of or has made payment for any motor vehicle violation (not including parking tickets) while driving a state owned vehicle.”

When vehicles are handed out we make sure that our records reflect not only the agency, but the unit and/or driver. As time passes and assignments change, without updates from you, our once accurate records can become outdated and not as helpful.

We ask that you keep us in mind whenever vehicle assignments change.

Assignment Changes

Just drop an e-mail to DAS.fleet@ct.gov.

CELL PHONE USE



Fleet Operations gets many complaints regarding drivers of DAS vehicles using a hand held phone. Each complaint is forwarded to the agency ATA so that they can research, review and follow-up. Lots of energy and effort (*along with multiple levels of frustration*) could be eliminated if all drivers simply **followed the law**. We ask all ATA's to encourage drivers to do so.