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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 Energy and
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.

2015 Vehicles



Over the past several months, Fleet Operations has been working to order replacements for our oldest and highest mileage vehicles. The focus hasn't been on any particular model/class, but rather to update everything so that we can retire those vehicles that are most at risk in the entire fleet.

New vehicles will soon begin to arrive. Some of the early ones will include new wheelchair buses, plow trucks and 200 Ford Focus – both sedan and hatchback models. Later in the winter we will receive 80 new Caravans, along with Cruze, Fusion and Impala sedans. To date over 500 vehicles have been ordered, so there will certainly be lots of activity in the new car department of our Wethersfield facility.

It currently looks like all 2005 and 2006 model year vehicles will soon be out of service. Also many from 2007 and a few of the high mileage 2008s will be removed from our active list and auctioned off. Generally when trucks or specialty vehicles are being replaced we reach out to the agency to confirm that a replacement is needed, and to verify changes required in the new model. If you have questions regarding whether a particular vehicle in your fleet is going to be replaced feel free to give Pam or Jim a call.

Since the two-year moratorium on purchasing vehicles (2009-2010) ended, Fleet has been replacing approximately 15-18% of our vehicles each year. Should we maintain this rate going forward, in roughly two more years we will be on track with our targeted goal of replacing most vehicles after a six-year depreciation period.

No Gas in Milford

DOT has reported that they have temporarily closed their station in Milford at 44 Banner Drive, right off exit 40 on I-95. The station is scheduled to reopen sometime in 2016. Please alert your drivers. For a complete listing of fueling locations visit the Fleet page of the DAS website.

Winter Preparation

As we enter into winter it is a good idea to encourage drivers to note the condition of their wipers and to check the level of windshield wash.

Although mechanics at each Fleet maintenance facility include wipers and windshield wash as part of the inspection they conduct during each service, it is a good idea for agencies to encourage their drivers to periodically check them as well, as a winter storm or two can quickly change their status. After all, driving in inclement weather is challenging enough without dealing with a dirty windshield because you ran out of wash or the wiper blades fail to work properly. Whenever wipers need to be replaced, or the windshield wash topped off, drivers can stop at any of our maintenance facilities.

When reviewing winter preparation it is important to remember the law that went in to effect a year ago regarding snow removal from the hood, roof and trunk of a vehicle before driving. Drivers can now be fined if they fail to comply (\$75 for the first offense). Therefore it is incumbent upon each agency to provide their employees with the necessary snow removal aids.

No Snow Tires

DAS does not provide snow tires for our fleet of over 3,500 vehicles. The reason is simply that technological advancements over the years have made the once common practice of swapping tires every fall and spring unnecessary.

Some of those advancements include:

- All cars and minivans in the DAS fleet are now front-wheel drive.
- The development and refinement of all-season tires
- Improvements in the treatments used on roads have drastically reduced the amount of time for a road to go from slick and icy to black. Those of us of a certain age can remember when roads were still snow-covered days after a storm ended. That is no longer the case.

At each service tires are inspected for overall condition and tread depth. At that time they determine if a tire can safely be used until the next scheduled service. If the answer is “no”, then they are replaced with new tires.