



inroads

July 2015

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Wethersfield, CT 06109
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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 Energy and
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.

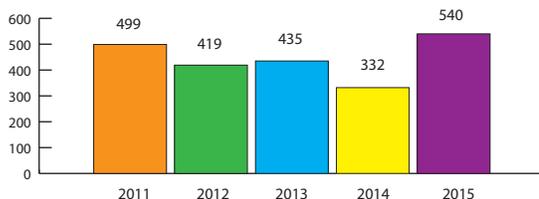
Winter 2015

While snow and slick roads cause many agencies to restrict their travel activities, at other agencies their mission must continue on, no matter what the weather. Since there was no shortage of difficult travel days this past winter, you might guess that it

was a particularly bad year for accident repair damage as well.

While reviewing Fleet's expense history for body damage in FY 2015, we realized the storms of January, February and March clearly had a negative impact. Through April, our expenditures for body repair expenses were the highest of any of the past five years and far greater than the same period in 2014.

Body Repair Expenses (*thousands of dollars*) -



We cannot change what has happened in the past, nor can we change the fact that snow and icy roads go hand in hand with living in Connecticut. But we can learn from past events and utilize that information as we go forward.

We encourage ATAs to establish a protocol that includes discussion with all of their drivers about the importance of safe driving and situational awareness, particularly when faced with inclement weather conditions. Fleet Operations is searching for training aides to assist you with your efforts and we hope to be able to update you this fall with news of additional resources.

Let's continue to promote an environment of safe driving twelve months a year, but especially when the driving conditions are the most difficult!

Connecticut Clean Fuel

Several weeks back Fleet Operations was notified by DOT that we had been awarded a grant for two 2016 Chevrolet Volts under the 2015 Connecticut Clean Fuels Program. We are excited about this news and look forward to ordering these vehicles in the coming weeks. In addition to the vehicles purchased through

this grant Fleet Operations will procure two other cars for a total of four Chevy Volts and we will assign them to each of our locations to be used as rental, loaner and trial vehicles.

We will be sure to update you once the vehicles arrive.

Airbags

This is an update regarding the Takata airbag recall. Since last month we have continued to be in contact with each manufacturer to obtain their most current information. We have provided Ford, GM and Dodge a list of the VIN numbers for their vehicles that are in our fleet. The manufacturers ran those VIN numbers through their database and, so far, so good. At this time, none of our vehicles have been identified as being part of the Takata recall. Let's hope that continues to be the case. In the meantime, please remind all of your drivers to buckle up!

New Software

Fleet Operations will soon be implementing new software to assist with a variety of fleet management responsibilities. Now 15 years old, our current program can no longer provide the reports and key operating information needed to support our program. The level of assistance and upgrades we received from the company has been so minimal that in 2009 we made the decision to discontinue payment of the annual support fee. So for the last six years Fleet Operations has been flying solo, relying on DAS technical staff to keep us operating and we are very thankful for this support! But we now recognize that the time has come for us to go down a different road.

On that note, Fleet Operations has received approval to upgrade our out-of-date software. This year Fleet staff conducted an RFI, interviewed respondents, watched demos, and identified a product that would best fit our needs. We then negotiated a deal and within the last month have issued a purchase order to a company called Chevin Fleet Solutions.

Fleet Operations looks forward to implementing this new software over the coming months. We are confident that the new program from Chevin will provide many benefits and enable us to access key operating data to continue to make more timely and informed decisions regarding the management of our fleet.

Got a Dirty Car?

Should you need to wash your fleet vehicle please contact Amanda in Fleet Operations. We currently have two levels of car wash tickets available, "Wash Only" or "Full Service." The Fleet page on the DAS website includes a list of locations where these tickets may be used. DAS/Fleet picks up the cost as part of your rental agreement, however, we do appreciate it if you are judicious with the use of these tickets.

Also on the car wash front, Green Machine Car Wash on Whalley Avenue in New Haven has closed. The nearest alternative car wash is Premier Car Wash in North Haven located at 384 State Street, and they can be reached at 203-214-3979.