

inroads

June 2015



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 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 information on fueling locations, accident forms and mileage reports.

Airbags

Although recalls for all makes/models have become more prevalent in the past few years the announcement of a recall of nearly 34 million vehicles by NHTSA because of Takata made airbags is significant. They have identified 11 manufacturers that have the recalled airbags in at least some of their vehicles, including GM, Ford and Dodge, but no specifics on models or years, or even the countries that these vehicles were sold in, which leaves us starved for information. Fleet Operations has been in contact with our dealers and manufacturers seeking additional details, but as of now they are not able to provide the specifics we need. We are also randomly entering VINs from our fleet into the NHTSA recall site and still have not identified one vehicle that has a defective airbag.

Fleet will continue searching for information and as soon as we have something definitive to report on the vehicles included, and resolution details, it will be immediately shared with ATAs. As a reminder, all drivers should continue to follow CT state law and use their seatbelt when operating a DAS fleet vehicle.

Electrically speaking



June marks a big month for Fleet Operations and the State of Connecticut as we are putting into service our first dedicated electric-only vehicles. Both DEEP and DMHAS/CVH will take delivery of the 2015 Ford Focus which are powered by batteries only. Since being abandoned roughly 100 years ago in favor of the internal combustion engine, the electric option is making a comeback. Significant advancements with battery efficiency and vehicle design are key factors in electric vehicles becoming a viable solution for more applications. While the \$100,000 plus price tag for a new Tesla is not practical for government applications, the Focus is on our state vehicle contract for \$27,284. Using the new rates that go into effect on July 1, this translates into \$507 a month, and no gas bills!

If having more range than the roughly 75 miles offered by the Focus is critical, then you might want to add a Chevrolet Volt to your fleet. It comes with a gasoline engine that seamlessly kicks in after the approximately 40 mile electric range is used up. DAS will be ordering two 2016 Volts as soon as pricing is posted. Our primary purpose with these vehicles will be to make them available to agencies as loaners and test vehicles. We will update as delivery nears.

Rental Form

Fleet Operations has revised the rental form used to request a temporary vehicle. And while we were at it we decided that faxing this form was a bit old school. The end result is that the form now includes contact information for each of our rental locations and is fillable without a pen. Drivers in need of a car can just use their keyboard to fill it out – hit print for a supervisor authorization and scan/email to the desired pick-up location. Or, supervisors can forward a reservation form for their employee without printing – just email the completed form to the Fleet address where you will be picking up the vehicle.

The form is located on the Fleet page on the DAS site. Here's a link:

<http://das.ct.gov/images/1090/Daily%20Rental%20Authorization%20Form2015.pdf>.

Rate Adjustment

On May 15, Fleet Operations notified agencies of upcoming rate adjustments that will be effective with the start of the new fiscal year on July 1 (August billing). A primary objective for Fleet is to only charge an amount necessary to cover the expenses associated with the vehicles and services that we provide. With this in mind the DAS business office conducts a thorough fiscal analysis to see where we stand on an annual basis. Once the DAS process is completed a recap of the findings is sent over to OPM for their review.

This year there were two factors that indicated some adjustments were in order. First of all, after holding the line since 2012, an increase of \$2 per month to the administrative fee is necessary (now \$188). This adjustment of slightly more than 1% will be offset at most agencies by a change to one of the factors that is included in rate calculations – salvage value.

When vehicles are sold the money does not leave the program - it is deposited back into the Fleet account of the revolving fund. Our recent experience is that Fleet has been recovering more at disposal (as a percentage of purchase price) than we had in the past. This increase in revenue over what was forecasted translates into a lower overall ownership expense than planned. Therefore, we have adjusted the expected salvage value revenue upward, resulting in an overall lower amount to be recovered from the monthly rate. This expense reduction will be applied to vehicle rates in the form of a reduced charge.

The end result is that almost all agencies will benefit from lower rates for the 2016 fiscal year. If you would like specific details on how your agency is impacted feel free to contact Fleet Operations.

Closed for Renovations

DOT reports that station 550/Bolton is temporarily closed. The address is 362 Boston Turnpike (Rt. 6) near the junction of Rt. 85. Current projections are for this station to be operational once again by late summer 2015.