



inroads

May 2016

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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.

Vehicle Recalls

If it seems as though the subject of vehicle recalls has been in the news more often than in past years you are correct. In 2015, there were a total of nearly 900 auto recalls that involved over 51 million vehicles. This is slightly more than 2014 when the total was just short of 51 million vehicles recalled. The two most recent years represent a significant increase over the 2009-2013 period when the annual total of vehicles recalled was 15 -20 million.

At first blush one might get the impression that cars aren't being built as well as in the old days, but that does not appear to be the case. So far, the Fleet Operations maintenance team has been able to stay current with our maintenance and repair obligations without increasing staff. In fact, staffing at our garages is down by roughly 25% since 2008. The idea of having better-built vehicles is further supported by how well many high mileage vehicles have held up over an extended life. Typically, a DAS/Fleet vehicle is targeted for replacement after six years, with mileage usually in the 75,000 - 100,000 mile range. State budget issues led to a two-year purchase moratorium in 2009 - 2010. The end result of deferring purchases meant that over the past few years we were relying on many vehicles that are in excess of 125,000 miles, all the way up to more than a dozen vehicles with over 200,000! Thankfully, over the past couple of years we have nearly caught up with our intended replacement cycle.

Fleet Operations is currently managing 17 different recalls which impact over 200 vehicles. The good news is that each month we close out 30-50 of those recalls. The bad news is that most months bring notice of a new campaign that adds that many or more! One frustration with these recalls is that vehicles are usually required to go back to the dealer. Besides taking up staff time, it also presents a burden to drivers because a loaner vehicle must be assigned. Fleet Operations asks that you alert your drivers that our maintenance team may need to keep a vehicle to complete a recall activity. If a driver doesn't want to be inconvenienced by switching to a loaner they may bring the car to the dealer directly for repairs. They also have the option to speak to the supervisor at any of our repair locations.

We appreciate your patience while we work to keep our vehicles in compliance.

DOT is in the process of replacing tanks at several of its fuel stations. The details are

- Fuel Station 525, Route 190 (East), Union – anticipated to close on May 2, 2016
- Fuel Station 578, 100 Chase River Rd, Waterbury - anticipated to close on May 5, 2016
- Fuel Station 507, 2100 North High Street (Route 100), East Haven – anticipated to close on May 9, 2016

DOT Stations Temporarily Closed

These stations will be closed until late summer/early fall. When they reopen we will send notification.

Please alert any of your employees that rely on any of these stations for fuel.

To find alternative fuel stations please refer to the DOT Fuel Station List:

http://www.ct.gov/dot/lib/dot/documents/dpurchasing/abc_station_listing_-_all_state_fuel_stations.pdf