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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.

Fleet Replacement Budget

Although we don't know what the future holds, failing to plan for it is not an option. With that thought in mind we have recently completed Fleet's vehicle replacement budget for FY 2015. Our request funds the replacement of almost 700 cars, vans and trucks for the DAS fleet. With an anticipated expense of roughly \$15,000,000, vehicle replacement represents a significant investment in making sure that we are providing the tools necessary for agencies to carry out their missions.

Long-term planning can be tricky, especially since the chance of events beyond our control could lead to a moratorium on new purchases. This occurred most recently in 2009 and 2010. While we understand the need to minimize expenditures during difficult times, not being able to replace vehicles for two years left us in a hole from which we are still digging out. The current plan, in place for the last three fiscal years, calls for us to replace approximately 1/6 of our fleet annually. In theory (once we are caught up) this will allow for vehicles to be cycled out once they have become fully depreciated at six years. One big plus to budgeting this way is that we avoid the peaks and valleys of getting 1,000 vehicles one year and none the next. This replacement approach provides a long-term consistency to our vehicle management, and is appreciated by the Fleet Operations staff who work on receiving, managing our database, assigning, providing maintenance and even sending vehicles to surplus for disposal.

Assuming that the budget for 2015 is approved and we move forward with our planned purchases, we will target for replacement fully-depreciated vehicles with over 100,000 miles and any vehicle that is model year 2007 or older. And if we can't get to all of these, remember that the rate schedule adopted in 2012 will provide agencies a financial break. Once a vehicle becomes fully depreciated the rate drops to the administrative fee only (currently \$186 month) until it is replaced.