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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-

Vehicle Replacement

Over the past few months Fleet Operations has been in touch with many agencies regarding the replacement of older vehicles. Currently, the DAS fleet contains just over 150 vehicles from 2007 and 2008, as we are still feeling the effects from 2009-2010 when a moratorium on purchases prevented the purchase of new vehicles. The good news is most of these will be replaced this year, along with higher mileage 2011 models.

Thankfully, the quality of cars and trucks has improved over the years leading to increased reliability. This has enabled Fleet to identify a replacement cycle of six years as being the most cost effective – it was once five years. The recommendation to extend vehicle life was incorporated into our rate formula and approved by OPM.

Reliability and quality aren't the only changes in the auto industry. Technology is advancing at a rapid pace, which benefits the State of Connecticut and user agencies by making more options a standard in vehicles for little or no additional cost. Some may remember when Fleet cars were equipped with crank windows, an AM radio and manual mirrors. Over the course of a generation AM/FM became standard, followed by air conditioning, tinted glass, power windows and locks, cruise control, tilt wheel, CD players, cup holders, daytime running lights, numerous airbags, keyless entry, multiple device charging points and tire pressure monitoring systems. All of these items are standard in most every vehicle that we purchase.

And over the past couple of years many manufacturers have made blue tooth, and rear backing camera/alert, standard features so cost-effective that we have been able to include them too. In fact, well over 90% of 2017 Fleet replacements will come with blue tooth, enabling hands-free phone use, and 100% of our passenger cars and vans will include a rear camera and/or backing assist feature. While we are not endorsing, or encouraging, the use of a phone while driving, it is good to know that should a driver need to use their phone, it can be done in compliance with Connecticut state law. Most new 2017 replacements even have MP3 players.

Looking ahead to the 2017-2018 fiscal year, our plan is to replace any remaining 2008 and 2011 vehicles that are still in service, along with our high mileage 2012 models. Once completed, we will have made significant progress in leveling out the peaks and valleys created by years of no purchases followed by years of large purchases to catch up.