Citywide Administrative Services | Fleet

NYC FLEET NEWSLETTER

Bill de Blasio, Mayor
Stacey Cumberbatch, DCAS Commissioner
Keith T. Kerman, Chief Fleet Officer

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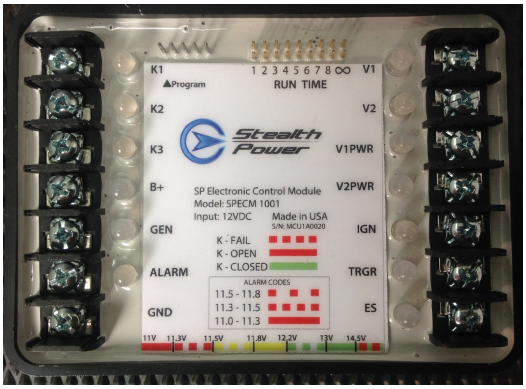
FDNY LAUNCHES ANTI-IDLING PILOT FOR AMBULANCES

KEITH T. KERMAN

This month, FDNY will put into operation its first new ambulance featuring innovative anti-idling technology. Currently, ambulances must idle during all working hours to ensure that the units are ready for immediate response and that medical and communications equipment is on. Ambulance idling leads to high fuel costs as well as very heavy mechanical wear on the units.

The pilot will feature Stealth Power technology. The ambulance will have an alternative power unit (APU) and battery that will be plugged in through off-shore power or recharged by the vehicle alternator when the vehicle is in use. As described in the Operator's Manual, Stealth Power is a "Mobile Power System that provides power to run a vehicle's electric equipment including HVAC, heat, lights, camera, communications and on-board medical equipment without the engine running." What this means is that the ambulance can keep cool and ready for response without idling the unit, saving enormously on both fuel costs and emissions, and also maintenance wear on the engine.



The ambulance was supplied by Wheeled Coach Industries as part of a major City investment in new ambulance units. Working with OMB and DCAS, FDNY has ordered 273 new ambulances in the last two years at an estimated cost of $57 million. When fully received, these orders will upgrade 60% of the City's ambulance fleet replacing units purchased from 2002 through 2007.

This pilot is also being conducted in compliance with Local Law 72 of 2013 which requires FDNY to pursue this type of innovation.

Thanks to Mark Aronberg and Andy Diamond at FDNY for their work on this project, as well as Procurement at DCAS.

FLEET SPOTLIGHT: LOFTON JOHNSON, PARKS

MAHANTH S. JOISHY

The majority of Fleet's 1,600 staff citywide are mechanics, supervisor of mechanics, and tow truck operators. Fleet also depends on support staff in critical areas including procurement, parts, analysis, and administration. For more than 20 years, one of the City's best has been Parks Fleet Analyst Lofton Johnson.

Lofton began working on citywide reporting for beaches, pools, and fleet in The Arsenal in Central Park in 1994. He prepared daily out of service reports from the City's previous FAMIS system. In 1995, he moved to 5-Boro, the Parks Citywide Fleet and Technical Services facility on Randalls Island where he still works. Lofton helped lead the transition from FAMIS to Parks Vehicle Out of Service System (VOOS) and then more recently to NYC Fleet Focus.

Lofton moved from vehicle service reports to tracking of all collisions and vehicle incidents for Parks, helping Parks develop a model program that was an inspiration for the City's current CRASH collision tracking initiative as part of Vision Zero. Lofton is currently completing Parks implementation of the CRASH module, entering thousands of collision records going back over 2 years onto the new fleet management system. Through CRASH the City will be better able to report on collision trends and develop strategies to prevent them.

Lofton is a native of Harlem and a veteran of the US Air Force. He worked with the US Postal Service for nine years before joining Parks. Lofton also received a 100 Year Association Service Award in 2006, one of a number of fleet staff citywide who have been so honored. Most importantly, we congratulate Lofton on the graduation from high school this May of his son Malik, who will follow in his father's proud footsteps and join the US Air Force this fall. "The most joyous and fulfilling experience of my life was raising my son," says Johnson.