



Bill de Blasio, Mayor
Lisette Camilo, DCAS Commissioner
Keith T. Kerman, Chief Fleet Officer

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FLEET AGENCIES SUPPORT DOHMH FIGHT AGAINST ZIKA

NATHANIEL KOSZER

Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH) is ramping up the effort to prevent the Zika virus in NYC and City fleet agencies are stepping in to help. With coordination through DCAS, three agencies (DOT, DEP, and NYPD) recently transferred 15 pickup trucks to DOHMH to support a major spraying campaign, while DSNY handled installs of the spraying equipment to the units. This has enabled DOHMH to double its mosquito spraying fleet in just weeks.



For over 15 years DOHMH, NYPD and Parks have been performing spray operations to exterminate localized populations of adult mosquitos, mostly to combat the spread of West Nile Virus. Now the threat of Zika, which is also mosquito-borne, has added additional urgency to these efforts.

Spray operations consist of an NYPD patrol car leading a spray vehicle along a predetermined route. The NYPD car, utilizing their built in loudspeaker systems, will make announcements for civilians to clear the streets. The spray truck follows behind, manned by a navigator and a city exterminator carrying a special NY State DEC Category 8 license for public health pesticide application. Spray operations typically cover multiple precincts. Recently, a large spray operation in the Bronx consisted of 14 spray trucks and 15 different patrol cars.

DOHMH also uses a helicopter for aerial larvicide application in natural areas. DOHMH is also using Zipcar to help get testing and sampling staff and volunteers around the City.

In the last three years, over 200 fleet units have been transferred across fleet agencies, supporting critical functions and offsetting new acquisitions. Thanks to all the agencies involved in supporting this critical health initiative.

DCAS SPONSORS EV TRAINING FOR AUTO MECHANICS

MAHANTH S. JOISHY

As part of the NYC Clean Fleet plan, city fleets are in the midst of a major expansion in electric vehicles and charging infrastructure, with 525 on-road EVs and 270 electric chargers now in operation.

To help this transition, DCAS set up a recent training program with Ford to review the particular maintenance requirements for EVs. On August 23 and 24, Freddie Plunkett of Ford led the training at the DSNY Central Repair Shop. Eighteen technicians from DSNY, DOC, NYPD, FDNY, TLC, DOT, and DCAS participated in this training course which included both a classroom component and hands-on practice on the shop floor.



The first priority of the course was best safety practices, such as removing the battery before any welding is done. Training also included on-board diagnostics, trouble code process, workstation review, and addressing specific issues that our technicians have come across. The hands-on portion included live demos on a Ford Fusion EV and also a Ford Escape hybrid.

This initiative complements training that DOT arranged also this summer with Toyota on hybrid vehicle maintenance. We look forward to expanding EV and alternative fuel training in the next year. Thanks to Ford, Ramona Ledesma-Garrido of DCAS, and Spiro Kattan and George Johnson of DSNY for setting up and hosting last month's EV training.

