

Take Action When Private Vehicles Hit City Cars

By: Keith Kerman

If a private vehicle hit your personal car, you would be upset and focused. You would be quickly out of your vehicle and checking on the damage. You would want the private vehicle's insurance information, would be taking pictures, and looking for witnesses.

As a City employee operating a fleet vehicle, we ask you to take crashes against our fleet units equally as seriously. Each year, hundreds of City vehicles are damaged due to the careless or negligent actions of private motorists.



The DCAS Fleet Crash Claims unit pursues restitution for this damage on behalf of most City agencies. The New York City Police Department has a separate program to pursue claims tied to police cars. In fiscal year 2022, over \$2.4 million was recovered from insurance companies through this affirmative claims process.

Here's what to do if a private vehicle causes a crash with the City vehicle you are operating:

- Check if there are any injuries. If so, immediately contact 911 for medical assistance.
- Report the crash to your agency and to 911 for police response. NYPD will respond to crashes involving City owned vehicles. Clearly state that the vehicle is City owned.
- Get as much information about the private car as possible, including license number, make, model, year; owner name, phone and address; and driver name, phone and address. Ask for information about their insurance carrier and insurance policy number.
- Review the damage. Take pictures and video of the cars and the damage.

- Complete a crash information package including the police report as soon as possible. Your agency will load that report into the DCAS CRASH system. Clearly note if the private operator is at fault in the crash.

Once DCAS receives the report and assessment, DCAS will contact the insurance company for the private driver, do an appraisal of the vehicle damage, and work to achieve restitution. In serious cases, where DCAS can not resolve a claim, the claim is referred to the Law Department.

Reference the [rules for addressing fleet crashes](#) so you are prepared in the event of a crash. Be sure to fill out the [standard crash report forms](#) within 48 hours of the collision and supervisors should fill out the [standard evaluation form](#) within seven days of the collision.

If you have any questions, please contact your agency transportation coordinator (ATC) or [email us](#). Please be vigilant on behalf of the City and help us ensure the City is made whole when private operators cause crashes and damage City vehicles.

NYC Fleet Manual

The NYC Fleet Manual and Drivers Handbook has been updated. Please see the updated version at [NYC Fleet Manual and Drivers Handbook](#).

Save the Date: 34th Annual Equipment and Vehicle Show

The 34th Annual Equipment and Vehicle Show will take place on May 11, 2023 at Flushing Meadows Corona Park in Queens. The show is hosted every year by DCAS in collaboration with the NYC Department of Parks and Recreation, and highlights vendors who support the City of New York's Clean Fleet and Vision Zero initiatives.

To register and learn more, visit [DCAS's website](#).

34th Annual Equipment & Vehicle Show

Thursday, May 11, 2023
9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Rain Date: Friday, May 12, 2023

Flushing Meadows Corona Park,
Queens, by the Unisphere

Fleet Vision International: The Show

The 2023 [Fleet Vision International: The Show](#) will take place on April 26 and April 27 in London. Registration link, speakers, and full agenda will be posted soon.



COVID-19 Safety Reminder

For all fleet drivers, when interacting with others in close quarters such as within a vehicle, it is strongly recommended to wear a mask.

Check out past editions of the Fleet Newsletter

[NYC Fleet Newsletter 411, December 2, 2022](#): DCAS Partners With American Lung Association on Biofuels Training

[NYC Fleet Newsletter 410, November 9, 2022](#): Vision Zero Dusk and Darkness: Recognizing the Safety Risks of Night Driving

[NYC Fleet Newsletter 409, November 4, 2022](#): DCAS and U.S. DOT Volpe Issue First Clean Fleet Transition Plan

[NYC Fleet Newsletter 408, October 28, 2022](#): Our 7th Vision Zero Fleet Forum

[NYC Fleet Newsletter 407, October 14, 2022](#): Reducing Risk While Driving

Check out the [complete archive](#).

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