
Fleet Spotlight: Darren Merritt, Parks Fleet Services

By: Keith Kerman and Lenin Fierro

As we gear up for hurricane season, we are reminded of the critical importance of the City's fleet fueling infrastructure. Fully topped off, NYC's underground and vehicle tank holding capacity is over 2.3 million gallons. This includes 414 internal fueling sites, 59 mobile fuel trucks, and additional access to private fueling through the DCAS fuel card program. As we learned during Hurricane Sandy, liquid fuel supply can be at immediate risk during major storm events and proper management of these resources is essential.



All of which leads us to this week's spotlight. Darren Merritt is an Administrative Manager with the Parks Department's Fleet Services and coordinates fuel operations for nearly 3,000 fleet and equipment pieces.

Darren began with the City in 1988 and first served as a Parks Inspector. Darren would travel the City, closely inspecting and grading City parks and playgrounds to ensure safety and compliance with technical standards.

In 2011, Darren joined Fleet Services at Citywide Operations, 5-Boro. Darren manages tracking and deliveries of fuel to Parks 11 in-house fuel sites and also coordinates toxic waste disposal and tank maintenance and repairs. Darren's role is to ensure that Parks fuel sites are working and fuel is available 7 days a week, especially during the busy summer months at the city's parks.

Parks is also a leader in alternative fuels, including biodiesel and now renewable diesel, compressed natural gas (CNG), and electric vehicle adoption. Darren has played a supportive role in implementing all of these initiatives. Fleet was a big change for Darren but, as he states, "I learn a lot from the Parks Fleet team because of all the experience." He adds "The fact that I work for the city I live in, it gives me a great sense of pride and joy."

Darren is a graduate of Manhattan College and a past recipient of the Light of the World Award from the Parks Ebony Society. Darren resides in the Bronx with his wife of 27 years

and his two sons. When he is looking to relax, listening to music, reading a good book, or exercising does the trick.

Thanks to Darren for 30 years of committed service, and good cheer, to NYC, Parks and now Fleet.

Wishing everyone a safe and happy July 4th weekend!

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