

Thinking Safety, Every Minute, Every Mile

By: Keith T. Kerman

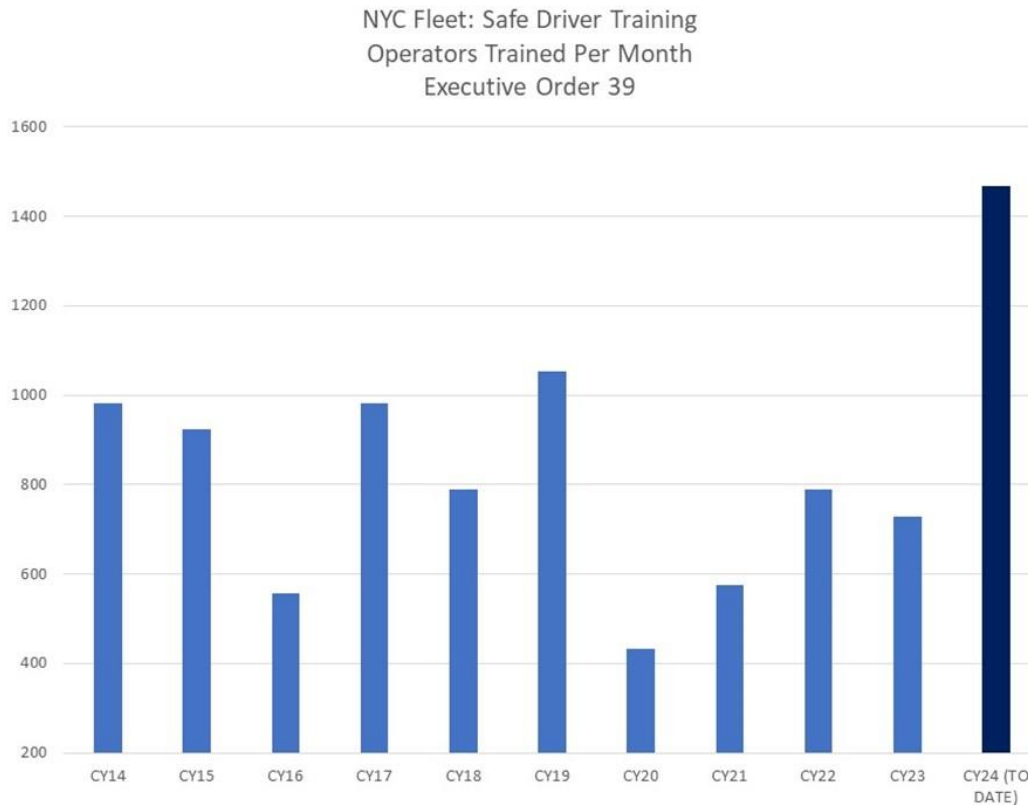


This week, a terrible and fatal event took place involving one of our City's fleet trucks. Each time such a tragedy takes place, it's imperative that we review and assess the specific circumstances and work to prevent these crashes in the future.

As importantly, every fleet operator and operational manager must increase their focus on vehicle safety—every minute, every mile, every second—since a second is all it takes for a life-altering or life-ending crash to occur.

In response to previous crash events, Mayor Adams signed [Executive Order 39](#) in February 2024 to improve fleet and contractor safety. A great deal of work is taking place in this effort. Effective June 2024, all active authorized civilian drivers have participated in the all-day safe driver training course, with an enormous increase in attendance so far this year. Since 2014 and the inception of Vision

Zero in New York City, over 101,000 staff have now been trained. All civilian agencies are now also up to date on rules, acknowledgments, and New York State license event notifications (LENs) as required by the Executive Order.



DCAS also continues to note safety achievements citywide, with significant reductions in excessive speeding and high—and moderate-risk driving as tracked through telematics. New orders of surround cameras for trucks are being placed for agencies such as DSNY and FDNY, and intelligent speed assistance (ISA) is being expanded. We will discuss these efforts further in future newsletters, along with efforts to expand safety to contractors.

That said, it is simply not yet enough.

Across the city, all fleet operators and managers must demand a daily focus on safety. Some critical reminders:

- **Qualification:** You must have an up-to-date license, be enrolled in LENs, have taken safe driving training, and review and acknowledge the fleet rules, or you may not operate City fleet vehicles. Your agency may also impose additional requirements.
- **Cell Phone Use, including Hands-Free, is Barred by Drivers:** Civilian fleet operators may not use phones, hand-held or

hands-free, or text while driving. This goes beyond New York State law in barring hands-free phone use.

- **Focus:** Safe driving is focused driving. If you are driving and doing anything except carefully paying attention to the road, you are driving dangerously and putting others and yourself at risk.
- **Wear Your Seatbelt:** This is the law and common sense.
- **Slow Down:** Speed kills. Stay at the speed limit wherever you are.
- **Understand Your Vehicle and its Safety Features:** DCAS is installing advanced safety features into vehicles including automatic braking, ISA, surround cameras for trucks, heated mirrors, backup cameras, and collision alerts. Take the time to understand how these features work so you can use them most effectively. If you have questions, ask your agency fleet or transportation coordinators.
- **If You See Something, Say Something:** Every one of us has, at some time, seen fleet operators driving while using phones, not wearing their seatbelts, or not concentrating. Don't stay quiet. Report it. Do something.

Safety is everyone's concern at every level and agency. We must keep getting better, and that starts now.

Buckle Up.



Every seat.
Every time.



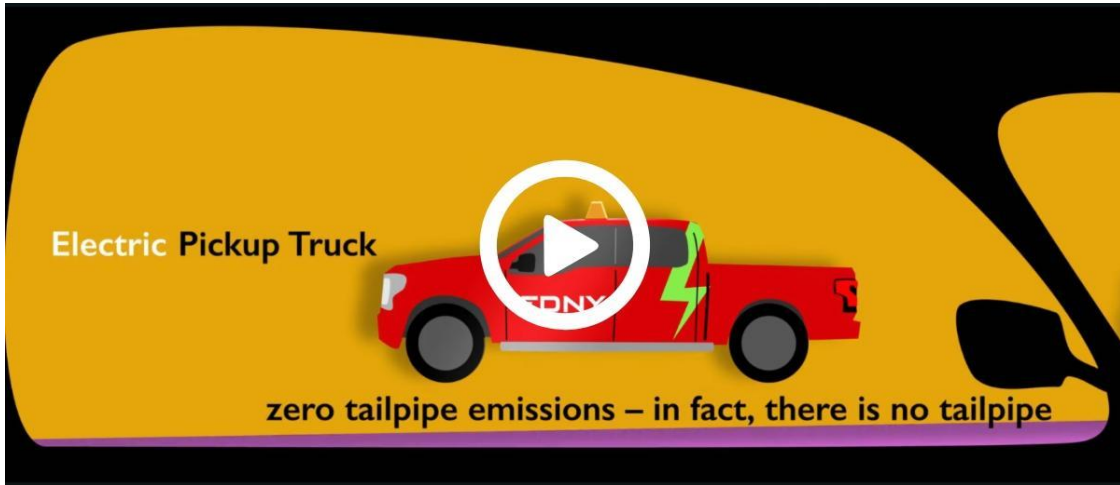
The life
you save
will be

your own.

NYC DCAS
Citywide Administrative Services

VISION ZERO 
Building a Safer City

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[NYC Fleet Newsletter 458, May 17, 2024:](#) DCAS Releases Clean Fleet Report Update; NYC Fleet Will Achieve Fifty Percent Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction by 2025 (50x25)

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