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FLEET OPERATIONS IN COLD WEATHER

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In the last week, New York City experienced some of the coldest temperatures in two decades. Our fleet staff and fleet performed well during this period, but we all know that extreme temperatures, cold and hot, place extra stress on our equipment. Some basic pre-cautions can help prevent vehicle, battery, or fuel issues in extreme cold. These include:

- Checking oil and anti-freeze levels and tire pressure
- Starting up units especially if they are not being used daily
- Parking critical units indoors where possible



The last week was also the coldest in the ten years that City vehicles have used biodiesel blends. All diesel fuel has cloud, pour, and plugging points which can come into play in extreme cold. The initial cloud points for the winterized D2 B5 that most City diesel vehicles use is -5 to -15 Fahrenheit. Fleet managers reported that this fuel worked well citywide during this recent period.

As a backup, the City also has D1 B5 on contract, which has even lower cloud and flow temperatures. City parts rooms also stock additives and emergency fuel supplements that can quickly address cold weather fuel issues. Thanks to everyone for keeping the fleet running well during this rare chill.

SPOTLIGHT: DSNY SUPERVISOR DOUGLAS LUBACK

MAHANTH S. JOISHY



DSNY's fleet of 6,000 vehicles carries a heavy load to keep New York City clean, whether it's garbage collection, debris removal, or plowing and salting the streets during storms like the recent Hercules. For over 30 years, Assisting Supervisor Class II Douglas Luback of DSNY's Bureau of Motor Equipment (BME) has helped keep DSNY equipment running smoothly. Doug currently supervises night and emergency operations, the Preventative Maintenance Inspection program, procurement, and facilities.

Doug began working for DSNY in 1979 as an Auto Mechanic in Brooklyn. In 1984 he was promoted to Supervisor of Mechanics, and he has worked at garages in four boroughs. Doug is currently based at the Central Repair Shop (CRS) in a five-borough capacity. Doug plays a key role in consolidation efforts, especially integrating Parks, DOHMH, DOE, and DEP vehicles for repair at DSNY shops. Each consolidation presented challenges and required for mechanics to learn new types of equipment, but the transition has been successful thanks to the hard work of Doug and other staff.

DSNY is not Doug's only base of operations. He is also a decorated Reserve Lieutenant Commander of the U.S. Navy, Central Command. Doug joined the Navy in 1986 as a Construction Mechanic and has completed logistics roles in construction, cargo moving, communications, and fleet since then. He saw active combat in Iraq in 2004 and deployed to Operation Trident Arch in Japan. He still deploys to the Middle East periodically for Central Command as part of reserve duties.

Doug also completed an MBA from St. John's University. He is from Brooklyn and still lives there with his wife Theresa and their three children. Doug's outstanding service to both city and country has earned our gratitude.