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FLEET GARAGES JOIN OTHER CITY BUILDINGS IN USING BIOHEAT *KEITH T. KERMAN*

Now that the cold weather is upon us, we turn our fueling focus to buildings from vehicles. As we have discussed many times in past newsletters, NYC is a national leader in biodiesel use for vehicles. The City’s fleet program in biodiesel has also helped inform and promote the use of bioheat for City facilities and garages.

In accordance with Local Law 107 of 2013, all City facilities including garages were required to use bioheat (B5) starting October 1, 2014. In fact, NYC began using B5 for its buildings and facilities well over a year earlier. In FY14, the City used 41 million gallons of bioheat citywide. Most of this was B5, with one percent being B20.

Since most heating oil tanks are indoors, bioheat does not pose the same type of cold weather concerns as biodiesel in fleet vehicles. It is however critical to use up and turn over fuel supplies using biodiesel, especially if bioheat is used with tanks that are backups to natural gas heating or are tied to emergency generators.

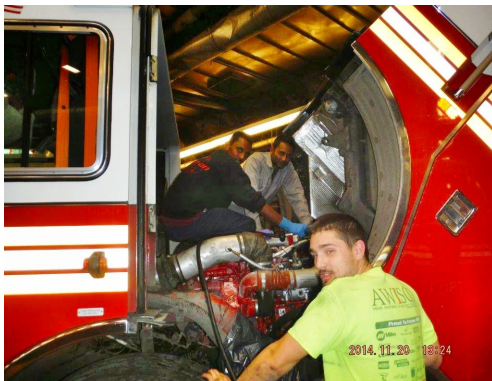
The local law also calls for a pilot of B10 or higher bioheat blends for at least 5% percent of City facilities. Currently, all the Parks fleet garages are participating in the pilot, and we welcome additional garage facilities to join this effort. Parks has used higher blends of bioheat, including B20, for many years.

NYC Government Diesel Use in FY14	
Fleet	17.7 million gallons
Buildings	41.1 million gallons

City operations use 2.5 times more diesel fuel for heating than for vehicles, and most greenhouse gas emissions come from buildings not vehicles in NYC. Through it’s leadership in biodiesel, fleet has influenced an even larger and more critical transition in building heating.

FLEET SPOTLIGHT: THE FDNY PUMPER SHOP *ARMENOUS ASLANIAN-PERSICO*

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When FDNY responds to a fire, pumper units are dispatched to provide water. Pumpers, commonly known as fire engines, can pump up to 2,000 gallons per minute. Each pumper can connect a hydrant to a building’s standpipe, a hand line, or a tower ladder, and has a reserve tank of up to 750 gallons.

FDNY has 285 pumper units, which respond to everything from car to building fires. They are serviced at FDNY’s Pumper Repair Shop at 35th Street in Queens. Approximately 450 vehicles are serviced there, including HAZMAT trucks, tow trucks, shop support vehicles, communications vehicles, large EMS vehicles, and five rescue vehicles for major events such as building collapses. All of these are over 18,000 pounds without ladder or boom. Ladders over 18,000 pounds are serviced by the ladder section, and smaller vehicles are serviced by the Review Avenue Ambulance shop.

Joseph Quercia has been Supervisor of Mechanics (SOME) for the Pumpers and Special Chassis Section since 2011. Joe has been with FDNY since 1992 and was a mechanic for 17 years, including 12 years as a road mechanic. The section consists of 17 mechanics, two service workers, and one laborer. The facility opened in 1949 and is under the direction of Fleet Director Rick Cozzolino.

When a pumper needs repair, a field mechanic is dispatched to the vehicle. If the vehicle must go out of service it’s brought to the shop. “It’s a big thing for a fire truck to go out of service,” Joe says. The crew works to return the vehicles to service quickly. Joe said, “We try to nip everything in the bud.” Work done by the shop may include repairs to the front end, suspension, cab, sheet metal, booster tank, and response lighting, as well as pump, engine and transmission rebuilding. Thanks to Joe, Rick, and their crew for maintaining this vital equipment for the city’s life-saving operations.