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## CITY GARAGES STEPPING UP DURING TOUGH WINTER

*KEITH T. KERMAN*

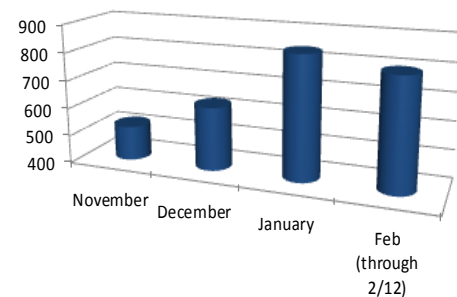
This year's winter is shaping up as one for the record books. Winter operations place enormous demands on City operations and staff and on the fleet that supports them. Plowing, salting, cold weather, and road conditions all place major strain on our City's 27,000 equipment pieces.

Thanks to our new fleet management system, NYC Fleet Focus, we can show the impacts of these storm events in new ways. In January and February, the City's garages have tackled an increase in workload of 66% with total jobs more than doubling at Sanitation. In November, fleet repair staff completed 15,698 repair jobs citywide. In January, that number was 26,000, an increase of over 10,000 jobs.

Not surprisingly, fleet out of service increased during this period, from 9.7% citywide in November to 10.5% currently. Given the extraordinary workload, the fleet is holding strong. A similar impact took place during the summer's major heat wave when out of service increased from 9.3% in May to 10.5% at the peak of the heat in July. Our new reporting systems are helping to pinpoint the impacts of weather events on the fleet, and will help us develop improved strategies to address them.

Thanks to all the fleet staff citywide who have worked long and hard to keep the fleet going during this challenging winter.

### Daily Fleet Repair Work



## SPOTLIGHT: DSNY SNOW MELTER OPERATION

*ARMENOUSH ASLANIAN-PERSICO*



During heavy snow storms, DSNY deploys up to 36 snow melters around the city to help clear the streets. Snow melters are machines that melt snow into water, filter out contaminants, and drain the water into the sewer system. The melting operation is complex and involves several types of vehicles. After plowing streets, front end loaders (FELs) load piled snow into haulers, which deliver the snow to designated melting sites to be loaded by other FELs into the melters.

Fuel trucks deliver diesel to keep running the melters which have large fuel tanks and are energy intensive. Twenty-nine of the melters have 1,760 gallon melting chambers and can melt 60 tons of snow an hour, while the other seven have 3,300 gallon chambers and melt 135 tons an hour. Each melter also contains an engine, burner, and blower. Between operating shifts, the melters are drained and cleaned. Most DSNY field staff have been trained and qualified to operate these units.

Depending on snow accumulation, the melters may need to operate around the clock for several days in punishing conditions, which makes their effective maintenance crucial. Two specially trained DSNY mechanics accompany each deployed melter with a road repair truck to monitor operations and make rapid repairs in the field if needed. Tire shop SOM Mark Irlinger was one of these snow battalion mechanics for over a decade, based out of Manhattan's District 3 garage. Mark joined DSNY as a mechanic in 1999 and became a snow melter expert. During melter operations, he traveled around the city assisting with on-site repairs and training other mechanics. We appreciate all the staff who oversee this unique and critical operation.