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NEW HYBRID TREE TRIMMERS AT PARKS

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NYC Parks takes care of 29,000 acres of space in the five boroughs, or about 14% of the City's real estate. This includes over 2 million trees in park spaces and another 650,000 street trees.

Parks runs forestry crews in every borough. One of the core units for tree maintenance and storm response is the tree trimmer, also called a bucket truck. Tree trimmers enable climbers and foresters to maintain and prune trees, remove dead or hanging limbs, and respond to a wide variety of hazardous situations. The arm can reach up to 60 feet.

Tree trimmers spend most of their hours each day idling to operate the bucket and arm mechanism, as opposed to driving through the streets.

One of the key approaches of our NYC Clean Fleet announcement is to reduce or eliminate vehicle idling.

As part of this effort, Parks recently received its first 6 hybrid tree trimmers. These hybrid units will use a vehicle battery to operate the bucket and arm while the crews are engaged in tree maintenance. The diesel engine will then replenish the battery as needed. This should greatly reduce vehicle emissions, fuel use, and also vehicle maintenance and wear and tear. Each borough's forestry unit received one hybrid truck with Queens, which runs the largest forestry operation, receiving two. This was a \$1.4 million project.

Congratulations to Parks forestry and we look forward to hearing more on how these units work in the field.



FLEET SPOTLIGHT: LOU MORBELLI OF FDNY

ALFREDO MELIAN



This week we highlight Deputy Director Louis Morbelli of FDNY Fleet Services. A graduate of Lincoln Technical Institute, Lou started his career with FDNY in October 1986 as an Auto Service Worker at the 58th Street Shop. He was promoted to Auto Mechanic in 1987, Supervisor of Mechanics in 2005, and his current title of Deputy Director in 2013. Lou has experience in repairing equipment such as ambulances, support fleet vehicles, ladders, and pumpers. Since 2005, Lou has supervised Motor Vehicle Operators (MVOs), support services, and the ambulance shop. As of January 2015, Lou is helping run the 34th Street Shop.

Lou helped lead the rollout of NYC Fleet Focus at FDNY's Review Avenue shop including the transition from MCMS. He spearheaded the improvement of vehicle out of service tracking from inception to end. Lou incorporated MVO daily functions into NYC Fleet Focus and initiated FDNY tracking of labor time and transport activities. He is well-versed in the modules, functions, and reporting such as operational dashboards and FleetStat reporting to help manage the shops strategically. "I can see detailed information on the assets we maintain, hours worked on, down time, mileage, and all at a click of a finger and much more easily than in MCMS," said Lou regarding NYC Fleet Focus. Lou also supervises inventory functions and the installation of CANceivers on FDNY vehicles.

Lou is married and has two children. An avid outdoorsman, he enjoys fishing, boating, water skiing, and hunting.