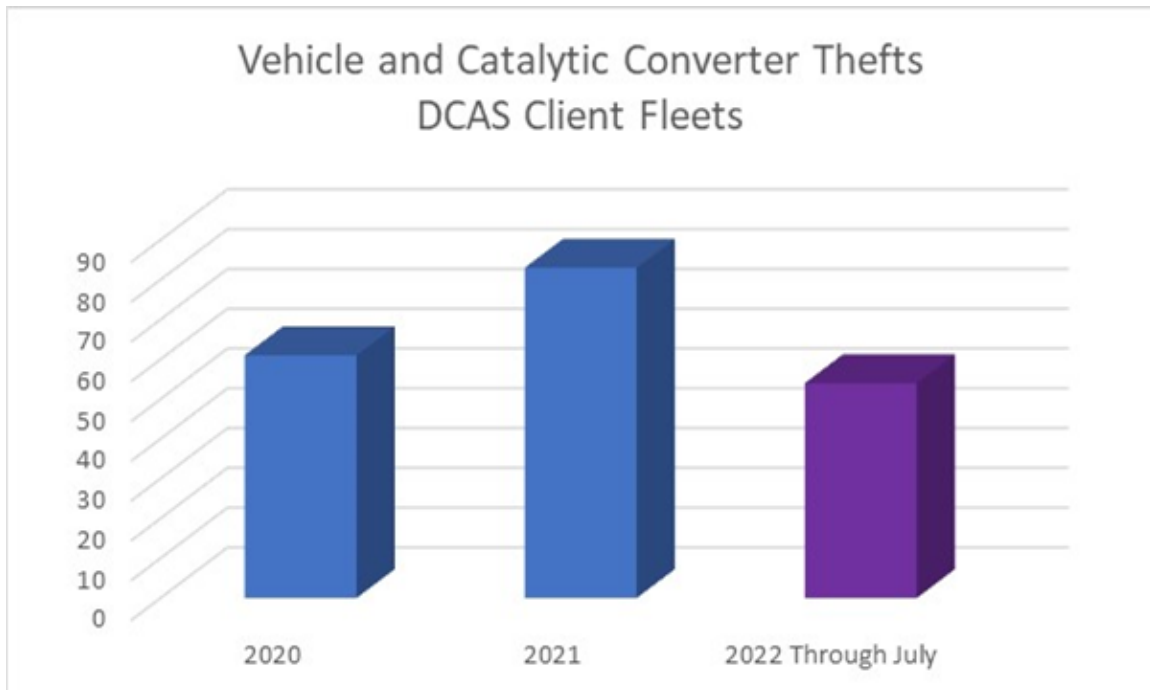


Preventing Vehicle and Equipment Thefts

By: Keith Kerman

In this summer's edition of their newsletter, the [National Insurance Crime Bureau \(NICB\)](#) reports on increases nationally in car thefts, thefts of catalytic converters, and even emerging fuel theft. NICB works with organizations nationwide, including DCAS, to address and recover stolen vehicles.

[As we have discussed in previous newsletters](#), these thefts are also a challenge for the City fleet. City agencies have experienced increases in vehicle, off-road unit, and catalytic converter thefts this year. Since 2020, DCAS client fleets alone have been victim to 154 catalytic converter thefts and 44 vehicle thefts. DCAS has worked closely with City agencies and the police unit at NYPD Fleet Services to respond to and recover stolen units, with four successful recoveries in just the last two weeks.



This chart shows the vehicle and catalytic converter thefts of DCAS client fleets from 2020, 2021, and 2022 through July.

All fleet operators have an important role in preventing and addressing thefts:

- **Do not leave vehicles unsecured:** Close windows, lock doors, and remove keys every time you leave a vehicle. Park vehicles in the most secure available locations.
- **Do not tamper with tracking devices:** Tracking devices play a critical role in the recovery of stolen vehicles. All on-road vehicles are required to be tracked. If there is an issue with the tracking on your City vehicle, report it immediately to your agency transportation coordinator and bring it in immediately to be addressed.
- **Report thefts immediately:** Minutes and hours matter in our ability to recover stolen City vehicles. Report the thefts to your agency, NYPD, and DCAS immediately.
- **Report suspicious behavior:** It is likely a regular group of thieves who are targeting catalytic converters on City vehicles and stealing City vehicles. Priuses are a focus for catalytic converter thefts. Vans, pickups, and off-road gators have been the focus of vehicle thefts. Some of these thefts have been very organized, with teams of individuals involved. If you notice any unusual or concerning behavior around City fleet parking locations, please notify your agency transportation coordinator.
- **Report Unauthorized Tow Operators:** Only official City agency tow trucks and DCAS and City vendors can tow City vehicles. If you do not expect a tow truck, do not let them remove a City vehicle and contact the police immediately. Record the license plate, vehicle markings, and take pictures where possible.

Working together, we can prevent vehicle and equipment thefts and quickly recover vehicles that are stolen. We appreciate the support of all our fleet operators.



Staff from DCAS, the Department of Parks and Recreation, the Bronx 49th Precinct and Bronx detectives worked together on a successful equipment recovery on July 9, 2022.

Upcoming Fleet Event

DCAS will be hosting an in-person [Fleet Safety Forum](#) on Tuesday, October 25, at Queens Theatre.

VISION ZERO Building a Safer City

Fleet Safety Forum

*Hosted by the
Department of Citywide Administrative Services*

**Tuesday, October 25th
Queens Theatre
Flushing Meadows Corona Park**



NYC Fleet Manual

The NYC Fleet Manual and Drivers Handbook has been updated. Please see the updated version at [NYC Fleet Manual and Drivers Handbook](#).

Fleet Vision International: The Show

[Fleet Vision International: The Show](#) was held on April 12 and 13 in London. DCAS Deputy Commissioner and Chief Fleet Officer Keith Kerman and NYPD Deputy Commissioner Robert Martinez discussed the electrification of the City's fleet and how NYC is a worldwide leader in sustainability. Presentations from the show will be posted to the [DCAS Fleet webpage](#).



COVID-19 Safety Reminder

For all fleet drivers, when interacting with others in close quarters such as within a vehicle, it is strongly recommended to wear a mask.

Check out past editions of the Fleet Newsletter

[NYC Fleet Newsletter 397, July 15, 2022](#): DCAS, Parks, and Together for Safer Roads Announce Truck of Future Initiative at United Nations

[NYC Fleet Newsletter 396, July 6, 2022](#): DCAS, Parks, and Together for Safer Roads Announce Truck of Future Initiative at United Nations

[NYC Fleet Newsletter 395, June 28, 2022](#): DCAS, DOE, U.S. DOT Volpe Kick Off Safe Fleet Plan Initiative for School Buses

[NYC Fleet Newsletter 394, June 17, 2022](#): Spotlight: Gary Prasad, Fleet Field Services Unit

[NYC Fleet Newsletter 393, June 10, 2022](#): The Falcons Watching Over the Fleet

Check out the [complete archive](#).

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