

Bill de Blasio, Mayor
 Lisette Camilo, DCAS Commissioner
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FARMERS AND BIODIESEL PRODUCERS VISIT NYC FLEET

KEITH T. KERMAN

In a now annual ritual, farmers and biodiesel producers from six states visited NYC this week to learn more about our nation leading program of biodiesel use in fleet and buildings. The National Biodiesel Board and the Oil Heat Association of NY coordinated the tour along with DCAS Fleet.



Farmers from Arkansas, South Dakota, South Carolina, Wisconsin, Illinois and Nebraska attended this year. On December 11, Parks hosted the farmers at the Central Park Zoo. Chair of the Council

Environmental Protection Committee Costa Constantinides updated the farmers on NYC's environmental initiatives. DCAS also presented on the continued expansion of biodiesel use in our City fleet and buildings. In FY17, City operations implemented the largest yet program of biofuels, with further expansion planned in FY18.

From Central Park, the farmers moved on the next day to the engine repair shop of FDNY at 35th Street in Queens. FDNY Fleet provided an insider view on how our fleet of engines, ladders, and specialized response vehicles are maintained and discussed FDNY's own implementation of biodiesel blends in their emergency response trucks.

Under Mayor de Blasio's NYC Clean Fleet initiative, expansion of biofuels will have a critical role to play in reducing greenhouse gasses by 50%. NYC was happy once again to engage this effort directly with America's farmers.

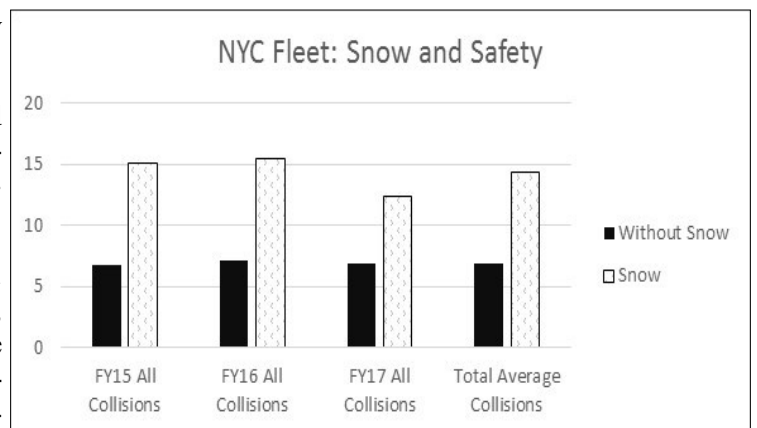
FLEET SPOTLIGHT: STAYING SAFE WHEN IT SNOWS

LENIN FIERRO

Led by DSNY, NYC has tackled an early and first snow event even before winter officially arrives.

Snow is the biggest single external risk to fleet safety and winter is the most difficult season in which to drive. In addition to snow and ice conditions, the reduced hours of daylight adds to the driving risks.

For most, winter weather events are a time to avoid driving. For NYC plow operators and emergency response staff, that's not an option. Our CRASH reporting shows that the risk of a collision for our NYC fleet drivers more than doubles when operating a vehicle during a snow event as opposed to any other day.



Here are some basic safety tips for driving in winter weather events:

- Reduce your speed and increase following distance. If you lose traction, decrease your speed even more.
- Signal your turns further ahead of time to give other drivers and roadway users more warning.
- Brake early when you decrease speed behind another vehicle or come to an intersection stop.
- For better visibility keep your headlights on low beam. Remember New York State law requires you to turn on your headlights when the weather conditions require the use of windshield wipers.
- For additional winter driving tips please visit <https://www.nhtsa.gov/winter-driving-tips>. Thanks and stay safe.