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## THE IMPORTANCE OF BUCKLING UP

KEITH T. KERMAN

It's simple but critical. In New York City fleet vehicles, all drivers and passengers are required to wear a seat belt. It's our policy and it's NY State Law. As per our Fleet Rules citywide, it is the driver's responsibility to enforce this rule for passengers in their vehicle. If seatbelts aren't working, get them fixed at your garages immediately.

As part of our fleet safety reporting, we have introduced preliminary reporting on seat belt compliance. The person at risk when a seatbelt is not used is the driver, along with any passengers in the vehicle.

Below are some statistics from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and Centers for Disease Control (CDC) about seat belts and their effect on safety.

- Seat belts reduce fatal injury to front seat passenger car occupants by 45%, and risk of severe injury by 50%.
- Sixty three (63%) of vehicle occupants killed in vehicle collisions are not wearing seat belts.
- An estimated 91% of motorists and passengers used seat belts in New York State in 2014, according to a NHTSA study. The nationwide average is 87%. Our goal must be 100%.
- Teenagers 13 to 15 have a 67% risk of fatality in crashes if they aren't wearing a seat belt, the highest of all groups. Children are likely to be buckled 92% of the time when adults in the car use seat belts, as opposed to 72% of the time when adults are not using them.

Please set the right example. Buckle up and make sure **everyone** at your agency does too. Thanks.



## SPOTLIGHT: JIM D'AMBROSIO NYPD AND OUR FLEET INTERNS

MAHANTH S. JOISHY

Approximately 50 high school students through the DOE Career & Technical Education (CTE) automotive program started their summer internships this week at NYC shops and offices. These interns work side by side with City auto repair staff on vehicle maintenance and related administrative duties. Nearly half of those will be spending the summer at NYPD. One of the key staff at NYPD Fleet Services who helps coordinate the internships is Jim D'Ambrosio.

Jim started with NYPD in 1997 at Shop 9 in Upper Manhattan as an Auto Mechanic. He moved to Shop 6 in Brooklyn in 2007 and has remained there since. Jim works on every type of vehicle including cruisers, vans, and trucks. Jim has been stepped up to provisional Supervisor of Mechanics (SOME) and gained special expertise in safety and training. This led to his interest in taking the internship program under his wing.

"I am what I am today because of the New York City public school system," said Jim, a graduate of Grady High School, now a participant in the CTE automotive City internships. "Back then this program wasn't available to me, so I push hard to make it work." Jim was raised in Sunset Park, and lives in Bensonhurst with his wife, son, and daughter. Outside of the job, Jim enjoys riding motorcycles and race car driving. We appreciate Jim's work on keeping the NYPD fleet running, and also helping to maintain and grow an outstanding internship program at NYPD.

