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## **NYC Fleet Spotlight - Tom Bartkowski, NYC Emergency Management**

By: Keith Kerman and Nate Koszer

This week our fleet newsletter features Tom *Flash* Bartkowski, longtime fleet manager and agency transportation coordinator for New York City Emergency Management (NYCEM). Tom has worked in his current position at NYCEM since 2009, but has been involved with crisis response since the emergency management agency was created in 1996.

Like many in citywide fleet, Tom is a graduate of one of the City's automotive high schools, having participated in the electrical installation program at Ralph R. McKee Career and Technical School. You can read more about Fleet's long time partnership with the automotive high schools in Fleet Newsletter issues [#269](#) and [#371](#).

At NYCEM, Tom currently manages 146 fleet units, including 43 off-road equipment pieces such as emergency light towers and the City's search and rescue fleet units. The fleet includes NYCEM's emergency command bus, which plays a critical role in helping NYCEM coordinate inter-agency response from the scene of an emergency.



*NYCEM Command Center and light tower deployed at Flushing Meadows Corona Park.*

Emergency operations require immediate logistical response with fleet vehicles needed to transport responders to the scene, communications equipment to coordinate the response, food and supplies for all involved, and equipment such as light towers to continue the work overnight. Tom has handled the fleet aspects for these responses for over 14 years.

Tom's first project with NYCEM was in 1996. NYC's Board of Education was seeking trailers to augment administrative and classroom space. Tom traveled to Vermont to pick up trailers retrofitted to serve as classrooms. To pay for the trip, Tom sold his family's personal car, and was later reimbursed.

Tom's been behind the scenes supporting emergency response for almost 25 years. He supported the West Nile Virus response in 1999 and spent over a year assisting with emergency equipment logistics after the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.

Tom's involvement in emergency response is not limited to the five boroughs. After Hurricane Katrina, Tom was involved in logistical coordination to bring supplies to personnel on the ground in New Orleans. In 2010 when Haiti was devastated by a 7.0 earthquake, Tom helped to coordinate a donation of City ambulances to the island nation which, without warning, had to care for tens of thousands of critically injured patients. And

in 2017, Tom was on the ground in Puerto Rico after Hurricane Maria made landfall, helping to coordinate the massive cleanup effort and providing logistical support for food and supplies.



*Tom participating in relief efforts for Puerto Rico.*

Tom is always the first to help when we need inter-agency vehicle support, when City search and rescue teams go into action around the country, and for off-hour and weekend fleet needs.

When Tom is away from his official duties, he is using his personal time to further serve his City by volunteering with the Shriners Children's network of hospitals and outpatient care centers. He also enjoys spending his time with his five children.

As shown in the picture below from 1995, Tom was being thanked and recognized for his service and commitment over 25 years ago, and we thank and recognize him again today.



*Keith Kerman and Richard Murphy, then of NYC Parks, recognize Tom in 1995 for his service and emergency response.*

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### **Check Out These Exams Now Open for Application**

The civil service exam application period for [Auto Body Worker](#) and [Automotive Service Worker](#) are open until February 28, 2023.

To apply for these exams, visit the [application portal](#), and check out our [upcoming exams page](#) to see which exams will be released soon. To receive monthly emails about City jobs and NYC civil service exams, consider subscribing to DCAS's [NYC Jobs Newsletter](#).

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**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](#).

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### Save the Date: 34th Annual Equipment and Vehicle Show

The 34th Annual Equipment and Vehicle Show will take place on May 11, 2023 at Flushing Meadows Corona Park in Queens. The show is hosted every year by DCAS in collaboration with the NYC Department of Parks and Recreation, and highlights vendors who support the City of New York's Clean Fleet and Vision Zero initiatives.

To register and learn more, visit [DCAS's website](#).

## 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Equipment & Vehicle Show

Thursday, May 11, 2023  
9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.  
Rain Date: Friday, May 12, 2023

Flushing Meadows Corona Park,  
Queens, by the Unisphere

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### Fleet Vision International: The Show

The 2023 [Fleet Vision International: The Show](#) will take place on April 26 and April 27 in London. Registration information, speakers, and the full agenda [are now available](#).



### 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.

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**This Past Week: February 12 - February 18**

Mayor Adams and DC 37 deliver a tentative contract, the Loeb Boathouse is on track to return, and the Mayor goes to Albany on the state budget this week in New York City.



## Check out past editions of the Fleet Newsletter

[NYC Fleet Newsletter 418, February 13, 2023:](#) DCAS Partners With the Department of Youth and Community Development To Promote Youth Employment

[NYC Fleet Newsletter 417, February 3, 2023:](#) DCAS Partners With the Department of Youth and Community Development To Promote Youth Employment

[NYC Fleet Newsletter 416, January 13, 2023:](#) Mayor Adams Announces Initial Results of Intelligent Speed Assist Pilot

[NYC Fleet Newsletter 415, January 5, 2023:](#) Mayor Adams Announces \$10M Federal Grant for City of New York Electric Fleet Vehicles

[NYC Fleet Newsletter 414, December 30, 2022:](#) Fleet Year in Review, 2022

Check out the [complete archive](#).

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