



MAKIN' TRACKS

A FLEET VEHICLES AGENCY NEWSLETTER



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Makin' Tracks is published by the Fleet Vehicles Agency (FLEET) Marketing Department.

If you have any comments or questions about FLEET, or the articles in this issue or would like to be added to the distribution list, please contact Kevin Kilbrei at (204) 945-4462 or kevin.kilbrei@gov.mb.ca.



New Fuel Vendor Rankings

Fleet Vehicles Agency (FLEET) offers its fuel credit card as a service that does more than minimize office administration and make fuel purchasing easy. The FLEET card gives our customers access to negotiated discounts from fuel vendors across Manitoba. Where drivers purchase fuel affects how much of a discount is realized.

Below is the fuel vendor ranking for the 2008 and 2009 calendar years according to the discounts offered. Drivers are asked to use the top-ranked fuel vendors whenever possible to minimize fuel costs for your organization. Reduced prices won't be seen at the pumps – FLEET will receive the discount when the fuel vendor processes your vehicles' fuel charges.

The rankings are:

Fuel Vendor	Ranking
Domo	1
FasGas	2
Husky/Mohawk	3
Coop, Shell, Petro Canada	4
Esso	5

1 is the best, 5 is the lowest

Attention Vehicle Coordinators — Please make this list available to your organization's drivers.

Increased ethanol availability in Manitoba

In the new year, the Province of Manitoba's ethanol mandate comes into effect. Starting January 1, 2008, 5% of all fuel sold in Manitoba must be ethanol. On April 1, 2008, fuel vendors will be required to replace 8.5% of their gasoline sold with ethanol. While all grades of gasoline may not contain ethanol, the majority of regular gasoline sold in Manitoba will contain a 10% ethanol blend.

For more information about the Manitoba Ethanol Program, visit the Provincial Department of Science, Technology and Mines' Ethanol Office at <http://www.gov.mb.ca/est/energy/ethanol/index.html> or visit the Province's "Seeing Green" site at <http://www.gov.mb.ca/seeinggreen/index.html>.

Hit The Ditch? Need A Boost?

FLEET has partnered with CAA Manitoba to provide towing and emergency roadside assistance services that includes battery boosts, lock outs, flat tire changes and winching. **The towing and emergency roadside assistance contract extends beyond Winnipeg to include all of Manitoba.**

All urban and rural requests for emergency roadside assistance must be submitted to **FLEET** - just call 945-4606 or 945-4615 in Winnipeg or 1-800-363-6693 outside of Winnipeg. **FLEET** will coordinate your request with CAA Manitoba on your behalf. Any charges for



emergency roadside services not following this procedure may result in a direct bill against the vehicle in question.

Reminder: If you are driving a **FLEET** vehicle that is new or still on warranty (3 years or 60,000 kms - whichever comes first; and for 2007 and newer General Motors vehicles, 5 years 160,000 kms), chances are you qualify to take advantage of the manufacturer's roadside assistance program. If you're unsure if you qualify, call **FLEET** to find out if your vehicle is still eligible for the manufacturer's roadside assistance program.

Cut out and keep in your glove box



Roadside Assistance Programs

	Emergency Towing	Emergency Winching	Battery Boost Service	Emergency Fuel Service	Lock Out Service	Flat Tire Change
General Motors 1-800-268-6800	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Ford 1-800-665-2006	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Chrysler/Jeep/Dodge 1-800-363-4869	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Nissan/Infiniti 1-800-387-0122	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Honda 1-800-465-7587	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Toyota 1-888-869-6828	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
FLEET 1-800-363-6693	Call FLEET if your manufacturer's roadside assistance number is not listed above or if your vehicle is not covered by a roadside assistance plan.					

Even the best-prepared drivers may find themselves stranded by rapidly deteriorating conditions. In the event you find yourself stranded, here are some useful hints:

- Move your vehicle as far off the road as possible to avoid being hit by oncoming traffic.
- Turn on your hazard lights to remain visible, and to attract help. Also, reflective warning signs placed well behind the vehicle will provide further warning to other drivers.
- Keep an emergency kit in your vehicle with additional clothing or a blanket to keep warm, first aid kit and a flashlight.
- Use a cellular phone to call for help if cellular phone service is available.
- Stay with the car and run the engine periodically, but not continuously, especially if snow is accumulating rapidly or if you're stuck in a snow bank. If snow accumulates and blocks your exhaust pipe, you are at risk of carbon monoxide poisoning.
- Move arms and legs to improve circulation, which will help keep you warm.
- Consider the outside temperature and wind-chill before leaving your vehicle.

Winter Driving Tips

Manitobans contend with snow and ice on the road for many months each year, and have learned to adapt to the often-hazardous conditions. Automotive technologies like all-wheel drive, traction control and electronic stability control are a big help, as are winter tires, but paying attention to road conditions and adjusting appropriately is sure to enhance your ability to maintain control of your vehicle. Here are a few winter driving reminders:

See and be seen — Carefully clean all your windows and mirrors before setting out in the morning, and make sure you maintain visibility while driving. Don't forget to also brush the snow off your front and rear lights.



Slow down — Everything takes longer on a slippery surface. It takes longer to start from a standstill, longer to stop, longer to change lanes. Even vehicles with four-wheel and all-wheel drive, which have superior traction when starting, will have trouble stopping.

Use defensive braking — This isn't a technique mentioned very often, but it's a good one. When driving along, if you see traffic stopping ahead, or a light changing to red, tap your brake pedal. The flash of your brake lights will alert the vehicle behind that you are about to stop. You can do this a good distance away from where you will stop, and it may be enough to bring someone's attention back from their cell phone, or from their daydream, before slamming on their brakes too late.

Test your brakes if you're unsure of the road surface — A key problem when driving in winter is that traction may be compromised by slippery surfaces. If you're unsure of the road surface on which you're driving, pick a spot where you're clear of traffic, and carefully apply your brakes to see how your vehicle reacts. If you feel your brakes lock, or the car begin to slide, you know the surface is particularly slippery and that you should adjust by slowing down.

Finally, one of the most well-known Canadian winter driving techniques is to escape south for a few weeks. Find a nice sunny spot, enjoy the weather, and simply forget about the perils of winter driving!



Winter Safety Kits Available

Did you know **FLEET's** Parts Department offers winter safety kits for vehicles. Our kits include a survival kit, booster cables, fire extinguisher, snow shovel, first aid kit and comes in a **FLEET** duffle bag for easy carrying and storage. You can order the entire kit or individual pieces.

Order a winter safety kit for your new vehicles or have them shipped directly out to your drivers. You can place your order or get more details by calling Jeff Ditz at (204) 945-5785.



Need a ride back to the office? Our Repair Facility also provides a shuttle service if you don't want to wait while your vehicle is being serviced. Let us know that you need a ride, and we'll be happy to take you wherever you need to go within a 5 km radius.


Did You Know?

FLEET offers a communication service to see if there is another organization within our customer base that would be interested in assuming your lease. We will issue a communication item, called a **FLEETFlash**, to all our customers listing the details of your vehicle. There is a fee for this service whether or not the vehicle is placed. Call **FLEET** for details.



From stationery to medical supplies, MDA is your one-stop shop of products and services at very competitive prices.

**Call for details!
(204) 945-3000**

Welcome to The Green "Driver". As it is *FLEET's* commitment to pass on important information to its customers, this newsletter details ways we can all be more environmentally responsible. The Green "Driver" will provide invaluable tips and articles for you to share with friends and family. Questions are always welcomed by our resident "green guy", Andy Chartrand at (204) 945-5242. 

Did you know?


- That the number of alternate fuel vehicles in the fleet are in excess of 500, which represents 18% of the total fleet
- As of January 1, 2007 there were 530 gas-electric hybrid vehicles registered in Manitoba. As of November 1, 2007, just over 960 gas-electric hybrid vehicles were registered with MPI – a 55% increase in only 10 months.
- Government drivers have used more than 87,000 litres of E85 to date from the 1550 Dublin Avenue site. Manitoba Public Insurance is also using the site as of April 2, 2007. Manitoba Public Insurance's vehicles have used more than 22,000 litres of E85.
- Andy Chartrand is available to help "green your fleet" and will meet with you or your Vehicle Review Committee to review sustainable transportation options. His fleet management suggestions will help you meet your sustainable development objectives.

Ways to Improve Fuel Economy

- You can improve your fuel efficiency during the winter months by plugging in your vehicle a few hours before you need to use it. This will warm up the engine so you don't have to worry about driving the vehicle

when it is cold. It also reduces the amount of time required to idle while the windows are being cleaned.


- Your personal driving habits will have a big impact on your fuel

consumption and costs. You can control the costs of operating a vehicle and minimize the emissions it produces by making a commitment to drive less and to drive more efficiently. 

What is a Plug-In Hybrid Electric Vehicle?

Plug-in hybrid electric vehicles (PHEVs) are hybrid vehicles with an added battery. As the term suggests, plug-in hybrids - which look and perform much like "regular" cars - can be plugged in to a 120-volt outlet (for instance each night at home, or during the workday at a parking garage) and charged. Plug-in hybrids run on the stored energy for much of a typical day's driving - depending on the size of the battery up to 100 kilometers per charge, far beyond the commute of an average American - and when the charge is used up, automatically keep running on the fuel in the fuel tank. A person who drives every day a distance shorter than the car's electric range would never have to dip into the fuel tank.

We're not suggesting that everyone has to go and buy one, in fact there are only a couple of makes and models that are able to be converted from a hybrid to a plug-in hybrid. Recently a hybrid vehicle was converted to a plug-in at Canada's first plug-in hybrid electric conference held on November 1st and 2nd in Winnipeg.

According to the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) in California, half the cars in the U.S. are driven 25 miles a day or less. "A plug-in vehicle with even a 20-mile range could reduce petroleum fuel consumption by about 60 percent," says Bob Graham, Manager of EPRI's Electric Transmission program. 



More fuel misers on order — currently there are 16 hybrids on order as part of the 2008 vehicle purchase. Once *FLEET* receives these vehicles, there will be a total of 45 hybrids in the provincial fleet.