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## PROTECTING YOUR VEHICLE AGAINST POTHoles

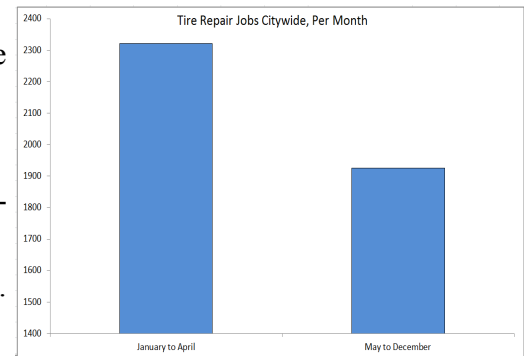
*MAHANTH S. JOISHY*

Tire replacements and repairs are some of the most common fleet work orders that we track in the Fleet Management System NYC Fleet Focus. In 2014, City fleet agencies completed 24,703 tire replacement or repair jobs of all sorts.

Winter is clearly the toughest time on our tires. From January through April, we completed 2,322 tire jobs per month, a 21% increase from the 1,926 jobs per months in the other warmer months.

As the spring thaw thankfully commences, the race against potholes heats up. NYC DOT's Roadway Repair & Maintenance (RRM) division leads the Citywide effort to repair and fill in potholes. While they tackle the problem, all fleet operators can take steps to prevent fleet damage in the meantime. These steps include:

- Properly inflate and inspect your tires. Tires are your vehicle's main defense against street conditions.
- Drive cautiously and slowly, especially if heading toward rough street areas.
- Keep an eye out for standing water or puddles on the street that could be caused by underlying potholes.
- Call street conditions into 311.
- Report suspension or wheel alignment issues in to your garage to help prevent even worse damage.



Triple AAA ([ny.aaa.com/Safety](http://ny.aaa.com/Safety)) is a good source for other vehicle safety tips. Let's all enjoy a safe spring on the road.

## SPOTLIGHT: DOT OPERATORS CORBETT AND COTTON

*ARMENOUSH ASLANIAN-PERSICO*



Speaking of RRM (above), our Women's History month spotlights continue with two outstanding DOT truck drivers in RRM Queens Resurfacing, Sharon Corbett and Zandra Cotton. Sharon and Zandra drive large trucks, transporting up to 35 tons of debris or asphalt for milling and paving in all five boroughs. They also dispatch to other operations including driving safety backup trucks in road crew operations, and night plowing with DSNY. Both women have Class A CDLs and received vehicle and safety training through DOT. Their work is physical and includes cleaning tailgates, checking fluids, and covering loads with roll and pull tarps. During Hurricane Sandy, they both hauled debris, sand, food and water to Far Rockaway.

Sharon has been at DOT for 18 years. She started as an Assistant City Highway Repairer, where she filled potholes and resurfaced roads. She was promoted to Highway Repairer, where she supervises pothole crews. Sharon highly recommends her career path, saying, "Take advantage of everything. The hard work will pay off. I love my job at DOT, and the people are great." Sharon lives in Queens with her two children.

Zandra has been at DOT for 11 years and is currently an Assistant City Highway Repairer. She started in meter dispatching and collection, then joined Highways in 2008, working in pothole crews. In addition to dump trucks, she drives tractor trailers for resurfacing operations, and tow trucks for vehicle pickups. Zandra, also a Queens resident, enjoys her work, saying, "It's a great job. It's amazing what goes on behind the scenes. Every day is a learning experience."

The Queens Resurfacing unit is led by Area II Supervisor Dave McCarthy. Dave calls Sharon and Zandra "solid workers," and says they work in challenging conditions. "The work is physically demanding, and the job always changes." Thanks to Sharon and Zandra and their DOT teams for helping to keep our streets safe.