

## Back To Basics: Buckle Up

By: Keith Kerman

At NYC Fleet, we are proud to push the limits of clean and safe technology. With our solar carports, hybrid police cars and ambulances, biofuels, telematics, electric vehicles, and truck side-guards, we are on the cutting edge all the time.

However, today's newsletter brings us back to some basics including a technology first developed in 1959: the seat belt. Through our telematics tracking, we get a daily insight into many safety indicators including speeding, hard accelerating and braking, harsh cornering, and crashes. We also see each day which cars have drivers not buckling up. **The seat belt non-compliance list should be zero each day. It's not.**



Buckling up is common sense and the law. In FY19, 93% of the injuries from NYC Fleet crashes were suffered by drivers or passengers of vehicles. The first step in keeping everyone safe is for the driver to buckle up and to make sure their passengers do as well. If there's any problem with your seat belt, get the vehicle into the shop immediately.

We will keep every seat belt in good working order. Our drivers need to keep every one in use!

As this reminder from NHTSA addresses below, buckling up applies to trucks and specialized equipment as much as light duty vehicles. The most likely victim of not buckling up is the driver who doesn't buckle up. Passengers are also at risk from these unsafe and illegal practices. The City will also be at risk to cover health and workers compensation costs. Everyone loses.

As part of Mayor de Blasio's Vision Zero, we are designing our fleet units to be safer, implementing telematics to help monitor safe driving practices, and training tens of thousands of employees.

With all that, five simple steps can help keep our drivers, passengers, and the general public safe:

- **Slow down.**
- **Don't tailgate. Keep safely behind the vehicle in front.**
- **Focus on the road. Avoid distractions including hand-held and hands-free phones, and texting.**
- **Drive cautiously.**
- **BUCKLE UP!**

DCAS will be distributing the seat belt compliance lists to all agencies on a daily basis. Please stay off the list. Keep safe, obey the law, and set the right example. Thank you.

---

## Check out past editions of the Fleet Newsletter

[NYC Fleet Newsletter 278, September 30, 2019](#): NYC Fleet Spotlight: Parks Supervisor Jose Baez, 5-Boro

[NYC Fleet Newsletter 277, September 18, 2019](#): NYC Fleet in MMR: More Electric Than Ever

[NYC Fleet Newsletter 276, September 9, 2019](#): DCAS Adds School Buses To Fleet Tracking

[NYC Fleet Newsletter 275, August 26, 2019](#): Happy Labor Day

[NYC Fleet Newsletter 274, August 19, 2019](#): Fleet Gets Younger After \$249 Million Fleet Renewal

Check out the [complete archive](#).

---

// CONNECT WITH DCAS TO FOLLOW NYC FLEET //



Visit us on the web at [nyc.gov/DCAS](https://nyc.gov/DCAS)