

OFM News:

April – National Distracted Driver Awareness Month

The National Safety Council has designated April as Distracted Driver Awareness Month – distracted drivers are the new driving under the influence. Driving distractions include radio and CD programming, putting on make-up, vehicle controls, passengers, programming GPS systems, eating, smoking, and fatigue, but the most prevalent cause is cellphone use. Any time you don't have two hands on the wheel and you're not focused on driving, you are driving distracted. A recent CDC analysis examined the frequency of two major distractions—cell phone use and texting—among drivers in the United States and several countries in Europe. Read more at: [Distracted Driving](#)

We want to remind all Fleet Coordinators/Managers to remind their employees that they must comply with all applicable safety laws and regulations and the extreme importance of the safe operation of a State owned vehicle. As stated in our March newsletter since January, 2012 our office has noticed a slight increase in citizen calls against state vehicle operators. The activities reported reference excessive speed, erratic driving, traffic violations, use of a cell phone, the transportation of non-state employees, and state vehicles being parked in locations that are not perceived as proper. Please take a moment and review the state's policy on the *Authorized/Unauthorized Use of State Motor Vehicle*.

If your agency is interested, the Office of Risk Management offers defensive driving classes to any state employee at **no charge** to the agency. The course addresses the importance of attitude and behavior in preventing accidents. To sign up for this class you will need to contact Marcia Disinger, Safety Manager, at 614-466-5063, or email her at Marcia.disinger@das.state.oh.us

General Fleet News (Industry):

Ford Recalling 140,310 2012-MY Focus Cars:

Tuesday, April 10, 2012- WASHINGTON, DC – National Highway Traffic Safety Administration announced that – Ford Motor Co. is recalling 140,310 2012 model-year Focus vehicles because a seal in the wiring harness connector to the passenger-side windshield wiper motor may be missing. Read more at: [Ford Recall MY Focus Cars](#). All recall notices are posted on OFM's website at *OFM*



Reminder:

Your Natural Gas Vehicle (NGV) Acquisition survey responses are due at the close of business Friday, April 27, 2012. If you need any assistance with this request please contact Roger Bechtel at Roger.Bechteler@das.state.oh.us or 644-1730.

Mark Your Calendar:

Upcoming Training

Thursday, April 26, 2012 - Fleet Ohio Data Entry Level Training will be held from 12:30 p.m., – 4:00 p.m., Birch Conference Room, 4200 Surface Road, Columbus, Ohio. Pre-registration is required—please complete training request form on OFM website at *Training Request Form*

Useful Links:

OFM can be reached at (614) 466-6607, 800-686-1521, or dasfleet@das.state.oh.us. Please use OFM Newsletter as the email subject. OFM website: *OFM*
(<http://das.ohio.gov/Divisions/GeneralServices/FleetManagement.aspx>)