

## Welcome

### *Launch of Quarterly Newsletter*

Welcome to the initial issue of our quarterly newsletter. Distributed electronically to Fleet customers, the newsletter will facilitate an exchange of information by reporting important announcements, discussing your role as a Fleet customer, and inviting dialog on focus issues.

## Cell Phone Usage

### *Feds Urge Tighter Legislation*

The National Transportation Safety Board recently urged all states to enact a total ban on use of portable electronic devices while operating a vehicle.

Currently, California law prohibits handheld cell phones and texting while driving. School bus drivers and drivers under 18 are barred from all use of cell phones.

Research suggests that handsfree devices are no safer than handheld devices. The increased risk apparently isn't due to the use of hands, but rather the cognitive workload required to hold a conversation with a person who isn't present in the vehicle.

Fleet recommends that your department communicate to all drivers that even handsfree phones should never be used while operating a vehicle on University business, except to dial 911 in an emergency.

### *Your Feedback is Needed*

Fleet is working with Risk Management and Environment, Health and Safety to propose stronger policy on the use of portable electronic devices. We need to know how such policy might impact your department's legitimate operations. Please send your input to [ejr@berkeley.edu](mailto:ejr@berkeley.edu)

## Know Your Role

### *Vehicle Custodian*

*This column will explore the many guises of the Fleet customer. This issue, we focus on the Vehicle Custodian—the person designated by your department to ensure that department vehicles are safe and legal.*

As departmental Vehicle Custodian, one of your more important responsibilities is to ensure that department vehicles obtain required inspections. All vehicles require a safety inspection every six months. And most vehicles require some sort of periodic emissions inspection—usually smog check.

Sometime this month, you should receive a notice from Fleet that lists your vehicles that are due for smog by June 30. Where convenient, you may schedule the smog inspection to coincide with the vehicle's safety inspection.

In most cases, you should select a [Fleet Vendor](#) approved for smog. If the vehicle is out-of-area, or if your department is piloting a new vendor (with permission from Fleet), please instruct the smog technician that our BAR File Number is GG960014.

If your vehicle fails smog, it must be repaired and retested, or else turned into Salvage for disposal. Unlike an ordinary consumer, a government entity may not apply for a smog waiver claiming financial hardship.

## Tell Us What You Think

To comment on newsletter content, please send email to [ejr@berkeley.edu](mailto:ejr@berkeley.edu)

In addition, Fleet Services is committed to providing excellent customer service. Please watch for our semi-annual customer service survey or send input to [kristim@berkeley.edu](mailto:kristim@berkeley.edu)