

Overview

For fleet managers, nothing is more important than keeping vehicles running and productive. Maintaining vehicles, including repair, upkeep and downtime, has a huge impact on a fleet's bottom line. A proactive, preventive maintenance program helps fleet managers keep vehicle repair costs to a minimum.

Unfortunately, many fleets simply take a reactive approach to vehicle maintenance. In a widely distributed fleet, that could mean costly repairs, not to mention vehicle downtime. Fleet managers need to be able to monitor and collect data on the "health" of their vehicles to fix problems early and reduce costs.

Reducing Vehicle Maintenance Costs

Scheduled Maintenance

Regularly scheduled maintenance is the most effective way to minimize vehicle downtime. Even simple maintenance like regular oil changes can help reduce engine wear and make the vehicle run cooler and last longer, according to the AAA.¹ Setting preventive maintenance schedules requires knowing the type of vehicle, its usage (mileage, hours, operating environment), Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) warranty, recall status, and regulatory requirements. In addition, it is beneficial to know the types of diagnostic problems that typically occur with different vehicle types.

Vehicle Performance

Information on individual vehicle performance on the road is vital to reduce maintenance costs. For example, when trucks are traveling in high heat and steep grades; monitoring the temperature of the engine, the air intake temperature, and oil pressure can help fleet managers gauge engine performance. Having access to statistics on vehicle diagnostics over time is also important to determine if a vehicle is performing optimally.

Fuel Economy

Vehicles operate more efficiently when they are well maintained. Therefore, improving vehicle performance through preventive maintenance can improve fuel economy. Monitoring unauthorized vehicle use, excessive speeding, MPG and idling can also greatly reduce fuel usage. Repairing a vehicle that needs a tune up can improve its gas mileage by an average of 4 percent.² Furthermore, fixing a serious maintenance problem, such as a faulty oxygen sensor, can improve your mileage by as much as 40 percent.

Monitoring Engine Performance with Networkfleet® Wireless Fleet Management System

Imagine receiving instant notification by email when a vehicle has a transmission malfunction or engine problem so it can be repaired quickly. Combine that with the ability to track the exact location and speed of each of vehicle 24/7 from anywhere in the world. That is the power of the Networkfleet wireless fleet management system.