

# CITY OF INGLEWOOD IMPLEMENTS PROGRAMS TO CUT **Accident Costs**

*Fleet accidents cost the City of Inglewood millions of dollars each year, but new programs that monitor driving behaviors are expected to save the city hundreds of thousands of dollars.*

**M**ost fleet managers have accepted the fact that as long as there are vehicles and operators, accidents are inevitable — a normal occurrence and expense of operating a fleet. The City of Inglewood, Calif., however, hopes to change this mindset.

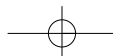
When a fleet agency's vehicle is involved in an accident, the costs go far beyond the repair of the vehicle. Depending on the severity of the accident, costs can pile up with Workers' Compensation claims, loss of productivity, third-party litigation, legal expenses, and equipment downtime, according to Rick Longobart,

## AT A GLANCE

Inglewood's accident cost-reduction programs include:

- In-vehicle GPS and driver monitoring systems.
- Accident management software.
- Accident prevention driver training.

*When a fleet agency vehicle is involved in an accident, the costs go far beyond vehicle repair.*



fleet services superintendent for the City of Inglewood. These factors, when combined, can cost a city millions.

**Seven Elements of Success**

The City of Inglewood's accident costs have risen continuously throughout the years. The city is now taking an aggressive approach to reducing these costs. It hopes to reduce accident occurrence by implementing several different programs, part of its "7 Elements of Suc-

cess" initiative, according to Longobart.

The first element, the WebTech Wireless Quadrant System — installing global positioning systems (GPS) in city vehicles — has already been implemented. The city has installed GPS in 30 vehicles to monitor location, speed, and utilization of city equipment.

The second element, currently installed on five vehicles (all paratransit buses), is DriveCam, a system that records video of the vehicle and driver



Rick Longobart

10 seconds before and 10 seconds after an event has occurred. This system is an added precaution to monitor driver behavior visually.

According to Longobart, the system, triggered by g-force, alerts the fleet manager of the incident through a streaming video reviewed via computer and when integrated with GPS, the system sends an e-mail notification to the supervisor and risk manager that an accident has occurred.

Clips of incidents are sent to the city's legal department for assessment. The videos can be beneficial to fleet agencies, providing clear evidence when the city driver is not at fault in an accident, thus helping clear the city of liability.

Another preventive feature of DriveCam is that when it is triggered, it shows up on the city's GPS computer screen as a warning flag and sends a message to the supervisor via e-mail or text message, reporting the vehicle was involved in either an accident or poor driving condition.

The DriveCam system is related to Inglewood's third "Element of Success" — the CCG System, FASTER Fleet Management Software System, which enables the information to be interfaced into the city's information system.

The fourth element Inglewood has implemented is a Reverse LCD Sensor System for high-severity vehicles. This technology indicates to drivers how close they are to an object when backing up. An LCD screen mounted on the vehicle's dashboard alerts the operator

**FLEET REMARKETING**  
ANNOUNCING A NEW REMARKETING RESOURCE FOR THE FLEET MANAGEMENT PROFESSIONAL.

Go to: [www.fleet-central.com/remarketing](http://www.fleet-central.com/remarketing)

Sponsored by: **FLD**  
Remarketing in Motion

The Fleet Remarketing section is brought to you by:

- automotive FLEET
- BUSINESS FLEET
- GOVERNMENT FLEET
- Fleet Financials
- WORK TRUCK

**FEATURING REMARKETING:**

- news
- articles
- best practices
- depreciation calculator
- statistics

both visually and audibly of an object's position to the rear. The vehicle's distance to the object is shown on the LCD screen, measured in feet. An audio tone increases in volume as the vehicle approaches the object.

The fifth "Element of Success" is a driver training program, P.A.C.E., which concentrates on driving behavior and accident prevention. P.A.C.E. stands for:

- Plan ahead.
- Analyze the surroundings.
- Communicate with others.
- Execute safety.

This training program is required for new hires and for individuals involved in accidents. If the accident numbers diminish, however, the city may implement the training as an annual refresher course, says Longobart.

The city has also created a City Accident Review Board program, the sixth element. The review board assesses each accident and determines whether the accident was avoidable and what disciplinary action should be taken. In many cases, the disciplinary action will involve the driver training program.

The final element in the city's seven-part program is CEI's Vehicle Accident Risk Management System, which man-



*Inglewood's accident review board can access crash data and contact the service shop to pick up the vehicle for repair.*

ages the accidents globally so they can be seen by all relevant permission-level staff that need to assess the accidents. The system projects the accident live, so staff can see it as it occurs.

In the event of an accident, the members of the review group can access all

vital information, including "the unit, the number, the vehicle, the date it occurred, the VIN number, and the accident report," according to Longobart. They can contact a body shop company to pick up the vehicle for repair. The CEI system also allows management to track increases/decreases in accidents, accident prone locations, etc. They can run graphs and uncover statistics based on this information.

The seven programs were adopted

and approved by Inglewood city administration less than six months ago, so it is still too early to tell how they are affecting driving behaviors. As the programs progress, GPS and DriveCam will be installed on more vehicles, expanding the monitoring of city drivers.

According to Longobart, these programs are expected to save the city hundreds of thousands of dollars, reduce the need for legal action, and increase productivity and city vehicle uptime. **GF**

## Real-Time Access

*...from anywhere at anytime!*

### Fleet Management Software:

*Where Flexibility Comes Standard*

- Totally flexible screen design
- Comprehensive driver, accident and motor pool management
- Dynamic maintenance scheduling, repair order, fuel and inventory management
- Integrated remote PDA access, touch screen and bar coding
- Powerful maintenance call center management
- Direct integration to internal and external systems
- Infinitely flexible user reporting
- Chevin is listed on the GSA schedule

**Web-based FleetWave** offers larger fleets unparalleled flexibility and ease of use.

**RoadBASE** offers smaller fleets efficiency and real-time analysis

**CHEVIN**  
FLEET SOLUTIONS

**781.793.0788** [www.chevinfleet.com](http://www.chevinfleet.com)