

BULLETIN

NO: 24-125
DATE: August 9, 2024
TO: All Personnel
FROM: Ted Moran, Battalion Chief, Logistics Division
SUBJECT: Fire Apparatus Engine Fluids

As technology and industry standards have changed, so have the engines in our fire apparatus. With a few CAT engines remaining, most of our fleet operates Detroit Diesel engines. Our newest and future apparatus now have Cummins engines. It is important to understand that different engine manufacturers have varying standards and requirements for their engines to operate properly. For example, SDFD now uses three types of coolant, each type is specific to meet emissions for the specific year/make/model of engine. Though some coolant colors are the same, they may not meet manufacturer standards.

It has been long standing practice that SDFD personnel are not to add fluids of any type to fire apparatus except for diesel and diesel exhaust fluid (DEF). Due to Fleet Services high turnover in recent years, coolant and oil has occasionally been supplied to stations in error. This has resulted in incorrect fluids being added to our apparatus by our personnel. These errors can require extensive repair and have the potential to void warranty.

Effective immediately, Fleet Services will no longer supply stations with coolant or oil. Kearny Mesa Repair Facility (KMRF) can be contacted during normal shop hours to request the duty mechanic for fluid top off. After hours requests for normal usage fluid adds should not be made since daily pre-trip inspections are required. This practice will also allow Fleet to better monitor coolant and oil consumption which will help anticipate potential problems.

Remember, SDFD personnel are not authorized to add engine fluids. Fluid additions to any department apparatus/vehicle are to be done by Fleet Services personnel only.

Contact Battalion Chief Ted Moran with any questions @ (858) 295-2550 or tcmoran@sandiego.gov.