

# DOT teams responsible for changing highway bulbs

**By Rick Harrison**  
REPUBLICAN-AMERICAN  
WATERBURY — How many state Department of Transportation workers does it take to change a highway light bulb?

The answer, like so much involving state government,

doesn't provide much of a punch line. In short: It depends.

"It's not a matter of pulling over the highway and a guy goes up there and fixes it," said David Moriarty, a transportation district electrical supervisor with the DOT.

The state maintains 20,060 lights on highways, roads and commuter parking lots. As part of a monthly inventory program, four district crews of electrical repair and maintenance workers drive those roads looking for sections with multiple outages. They also

field complaints from the public about outages, forwarded by the state police. Managers try to schedule lamp replacements and repairs during already-scheduled construction to take advantage of closed lanes and existing warning sign patterns.

From April to November

2008, the state installed or replaced 7,286 bulbs and replaced or repaired 3,759 complete lighting heads.

But how many workers does it take?

"There are a lot of variables," DOT spokesman Kevin Nursick said.

Statewide, 59 electrical staff workers install and maintain highway lights, 2,500 traffic signals, overhead sign illumination, navigation lights and electrical systems at drawbridges, and lights at rest areas and parking lots.

To physically change a light bulb would take one person, Nursick said. But on the highway, the DOT follows what it calls maintenance and protection of traffic, or MPT.

"Obviously, you're not going to go on an interstate and send a guy up in a bucket with no MPT," he said.

So the DOT sends trucks with signs and lights warning of construction or a lane closure. It sends crash trucks — orange dumpers with flashing lights and barrels on the back to cushion an impact. State police might send cruisers to help maintain the site. A pair of trucks with extending bucket arms might leapfrog one another to service a row of lights, with one worker in each bucket and workers monitoring them on the ground. Altogether, a dozen or more people could be involved.

The high-pressure sodium lights cost about \$75 per fixture and another \$15 for the lamps, which have a life span of about five years. The aluminum pole with a fixture bracket arm costs about \$3,000.

About 95 percent of the lights use 150-watt lamps, which cost the state \$8.04 a month. A smaller number of 250-watt lamps cost \$11.15 a month.

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### POLICE BLOTTER

- #### Stamford
- Grebert Francilme, 43, of 277 Culloden Road, Stamford, was charged Friday with third-degree larceny, fourth-degree larceny, identity theft, violation of probation and two counts of second-degree failure to appear.
  - Juan Carlos Garcia-Sosa, 25, of 39 Dolsen Place, Stamford, was charged Friday with driving under the influence, third-degree criminal trespass and driving without a license.
  - Francisco Jumbo, 53, of Newark, N.J., was charged Friday with second-degree failure to appear.
  - Hector Santos, 65, of 655 Park Ave., Bridgeport, was charged Friday with evading responsibility, failure to insure a private motor vehicle and traveling at an unreasonable speed.
  - Terrance Secore, 23, of 10 Darling St., Southington, was charged Friday with two counts of third-degree larceny.
  - David Vega, 32, of 701 Howard Ave., New Haven, was arrested for extradition.
  - Juan Carlos Mogollon, 46, of 17 Stone St., Greenwich, was charged Friday with third-degree larceny.
- #### Norwalk
- Dennis Lewis, 44, of 70 Chestnut St., Norwalk, was charged Friday with creating a risk of injury or impairing morals of a minor.
  - Keith Roy, 43, of 28 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive, Norwalk, was charged Friday with breach of peace.
  - Randy Marucci, 30, of 82 Broad St., Norwalk, was charged Friday with sixth-degree larceny.
  - Karen Schulz, 52, of 121 Georgetown Road, Weston, was charged Friday with sixth-degree larceny.
  - Richard Gross, 41, of 37 Taff Ave., Stamford, was charged Friday with fifth-degree larceny.
  - Anita Tabb, 33, address unavailable, was charged Friday with driving under the influence and driving with an invalid license.
  - David Molina, 32, of 162 Flax Hill Road, Norwalk, was charged Friday with driving under the influence and without insurance.
  - Victor Toro, 40, of 15 Avenue E., Norwalk, was charged Thursday with possession of narcotics and illegal possession of narcotics within 1,500 feet of a school.
  - Aleta Mancuso, 38, of 287 Elm St., Windsor Locks, was charged Thursday with possession of drug paraphernalia and possession of drug paraphernalia within 1,500 feet of a school. He was held on \$200 bond.

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