

## **2014 First Place - Dyed Hydraulic Fluid: Michigan**

### **CONTACT:**

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### **PROBLEM STATEMENT:**

Finding hydraulic leaks on snow-covered vehicles was difficult.

### **SOLUTION:**

Dan Gard worked with a local oil distributor to find a blue, mineral-based dye to color the hydraulic fluid on City of Wyoming trucks. He chose blue because it stands out; most other colors can be confused with other truck fluids. To experiment with the dye, Dan added 1/2 to 1 cup to the 40 to 60 gallon hydraulic fluid tank on a few trucks. After experiencing no adverse effects, he added it to the rest of the trucks and also added about 3/4 gallon of dye to his agency's 300-gallon bulk hydraulic fluid tank. He has used the dye for three years. Dying the hydraulic fluid for their entire fleet requires about 4 gallons of dye per year.

### **LABOR/MATERIALS/COST:**

\$35 per gallon

### **SAVINGS/BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY:**

With the dye, hydraulic leaks are much easier to spot, which speeds up problem diagnosis and also simplifies the pre- and post-trip checks for drivers.

