



DEC NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Anchorage rental car owner fined for I/M evasion

July 15, 2005 – Anchorage – The owner of two Anchorage rental car businesses has been sentenced to serve ten days in jail and pay \$30,000 for evading vehicle air quality inspection and monitoring (I/M) testing.

Bart Green, owner of Anchorage Downtown Car Rental and Airport Car Rental entered a no contest plea to two misdemeanor counts for failing to have a valid I/M certificate, two misdemeanor counts for making false statements, and must pay fines totaling \$30,000, according to the state's environmental crimes prosecutor, Assistant Attorney General Kelly Gibson.

Green is accused of falsely registering his rental vehicles to a fictitious address in Seward and evading the Municipality of Anchorage's I/M requirements. The Municipality's I/M enforcement staff discovered the violations and referred them to the Department of Environmental Conservation's (DEC) environmental crimes unit for investigation.

According to DEC's Division of Air Quality Director Tom Chapple, the Anchorage I/M program was established to reduce pollution and meet national public health standards for carbon monoxide. In recent years, Anchorage has met the health standard. Properly maintained vehicles and newer cars with lower emission rates are critical to maintaining clean air as population and vehicle use increase over time. "Identifying and prosecuting those who willingly violate the state's clean air laws is an important element to the success of this program," Chapple said.

For information about the I/M program and how to comply, please see the DEC website at <http://www.state.ak.us/dec/air/anpms/ms/home.htm> or contact Cindy Heil with DEC's Division of Air Quality at 907-269-7579.

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