

TAB:	PUBLIC WORKS
SECTION:	GENERAL
SUBJECT:	VEHICLE AND EQUIPMENT IDLING POLICY

PURPOSE

This document outlines the policy of a one minute idle time to: reduce the air pollution from vehicle and equipment exhausts, create a healthier environment, promote energy (fossil fuel) conservation, reduce noise pollution and reduce wear and service needs on vehicles and equipment.

GENERAL

Vehicles and equipment idling have a significant impact upon the environment. The main areas of environmental impact are air quality and fuel consumption. Air quality is affected by the creation of smog (ozone in the lower levels of the atmosphere and production of carbon monoxide and other air borne pollutants). The affects on humans (and animals) may include respiratory problems ranging from not being able to handle extended outdoor activities to asthma and related disorders.

Idling Facts and Statistics:

1. An idling vehicle emits nearly 20 times more air pollution than when travelling at 50 km/hr.
2. Ontario Ministry of Transportation estimates that an idling gasoline vehicle with an average sized engine uses about 2.2 litres of fuel per hour and that an idling diesel truck engine uses about 3 litres of fuel per hour. Reducing idling time by 10 minutes a day translates into approximately 60.8 hours a year in fuel savings of more than 100L.
3. Turning off and starting an engine uses LESS fuel than letting the engine run for 30 seconds.
4. Modern vehicles need a maximum of 30 seconds of idle at start up. The best way to warm up a vehicle is by driving it.
5. Engine wear is greater at prolonged idle than during normal operation.
6. Although some fuels pollute less than others, they all contribute to air pollution and are therefore equally affected by this policy.

SCOPE

This policy applies to all employees who are authorized to operate a vehicle/equipment owned, leased or rented by the [municipality/agency]. Regulatory Affairs, Public Works will ensure that this policy is kept up-to-date.

EXEMPTIONS:

- a) For vehicle/equipment maintenance and diagnostic purposes;
- b) Under extreme weather conditions or any other time when the health and safety of employees or others may be jeopardized;
- c) If the unit is not expected to restart due to mechanical problems (to be repaired ASAP);
- d) Assisting on an emergency scene; and
- e) When the engine is required to power auxiliary equipment (i.e.: hoist, lift, computers, safety lighting, and internal equipment).

POLICY

1. The driver/operator shall:

- not idle the vehicle/equipment while completing a circle check (unless required for air brake pressure or other critical checks necessary);
- not leave the vehicle/equipment unattended while idling;
- shut down the vehicle/equipment when it is expected to exceed the one minute idle time;
- ensure that vehicle/equipment deficiencies are reported immediately to the immediate supervisor or if it is unsafe to turn the unit off;
- idle the vehicle/equipment only if the motor is required to power auxiliary equipment;
- idle the vehicle/equipment only under extreme weather conditions; and
- idle the vehicle/equipment only when the health and safety of employees or others may be jeopardized.

2. The supervisor shall:

- make sure that employees are made aware of this policy; and
- ensure that all employees adhere to this policy

3. Fleet Services shall:

- idle vehicles/equipment only when necessary for maintenance and diagnostic purposes; and
- ensure that idling be kept to a minimum.

PROCEDURES

1. The driver/operator will:

- a) check the vehicle/equipment prior to leaving to ensure that safe turn off of the unit can be accomplished;
- b) report the defect in the Vehicle Inspection Log Book and provide to the immediate supervisor to determine if it is safe to be operated or needs to be repaired immediately if the unit can not be turned off;
- c) turn off and remove the keys from the ignition when the vehicle/equipment is left unattended;
- d) turn off the vehicle/equipment, unless the vehicle/equipment motor is to be used for auxiliary power; and
- e) turn off the vehicle/equipment when it is expected to exceed the one minute idle time, and it is safe to do so.

2. The supervisor will:

- a) Instruct employees of this policy; and
- b) Ensure that all employees adhere to this policy.

POLICY CONSEQUENCES

- a) Non-compliance with this policy by the driver/operator may result in disciplinary action; and
- b) The supervisor shall ensure that all employees adhere to this policy and deals promptly with all non-compliance issues.