

Vehicle Idling

Reviewed Date		Number	OP0109
Revised Date		Approved Date	August 12, 2009

Introduction

The Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit recognizes its obligation to take a leadership role by reducing its contribution to air pollutants and greenhouse gasses. Contaminants from vehicle exhaust are major contributors to deteriorating air quality and smog. Idling vehicles and equipment have a significant impact on fuel consumption and greenhouse gas emissions. Turning off an engine is a clear and simple means of engaging people in air quality improvement behaviours.

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to inform Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit Board of Health members, employees, students, volunteers, contractors and suppliers of their obligations regarding the idling of vehicles and equipment on health unit properties and while conducting health unit business.

Policy Definitions and Interpretation

This policy applies to the idling of health unit vehicles and/or vehicles operated by health unit staff while conducting agency business.

Manager as used within this policy is a term inclusive of all management personnel with direct reports – Medical Officer of Health, Director, Associate Director, Manager, Supervisor and Area Planner.

Idling is defined as: The operation of the engine of a vehicle while the vehicle is not in motion and not being used to operate auxiliary equipment such as, but not limited to, medical or mechanical lifts and refrigeration units.

Vehicle is defined as: Cars, trucks, vans, SUV's, tractors, snowplows, and other equipment operated by a driver, as defined in the *Highway Traffic Act*, and which utilize fuels such as diesel, gasoline, propane or compressed natural gas.

Policy

All board members, employees, students, volunteers, contractors and suppliers are prohibited from idling in excess of one (1) minute on all properties owned or leased by the health unit or at any location while conducting agency business in personal or agency fleet vehicles.

Directors, managers and supervisors are required to orient staff to this policy and the expectations for staff.

Staff are encouraged to reinforce this policy with other staff, visitors, contractors and suppliers. It is recommended that employees adopt these practices outside of work as an environmental protection measure.

Exemptions

The one (1) minute limit does not apply to:

- extreme weather conditions where idling may be necessary for the safe operation of the vehicle (eg. defogging or de-icing) or the health and safety of the operator and/or passenger is a factor

Procedures

Complaints Procedure

1. Staff members are encouraged to promote and reinforce the idle free grounds policy during their interactions with other staff members and the public and to address identified non-compliance with the policy directly with the individual(s) involved.
2. Complaints regarding non-compliance with the policy by staff, students or volunteers should be directed to your own supervisor or manager for follow up.
3. That manager and/or supervisor will work with HR and the supervisor or manager of the individual who is non-compliant to reinforce the policy.

Related Policies

Final Approval Signature: _____

Review/Revision History:

September 2010 Policy re-numbered, previous policy B2.150