

TITLE: APPROPRIATE VEHICLE IDLING TIMES FOR CITY-OWNED VEHICLES

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 18, 2008

REVISION DATE: February 22, 2008

WHEREAS, the elimination of unnecessary idling of city owned vehicles supports healthier work environments, the efficient use of city resources, reduction of fuel consumption and related emissions including carbon dioxide, and good stewardship practices.

WHEREAS, it is incumbent upon the city of Spokane as the largest city in the region and the second largest city in the State to take responsible leadership positions such as this one.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mary Verner, Mayor, do hereby order and direct that the following idling limitations and equipment purchasing guidelines be adhered to when operating city vehicles:

IDLING LIMITATIONS

For initial vehicle warm-up;

Diesel Fueled Cars and Trucks:

Idle times up to one minute are allowed for diesel fueled cars or trucks during their initial shift warm-up.

Gasoline or Alternatively Fueled Cars and Trucks:

Idle times up to thirty seconds are allowed for gasoline fueled cars or trucks during their initial shift warm-up.

For operation of cars and trucks in the field;

Diesel Fueled Cars and Trucks:

No operator shall unnecessarily idle the engine of a diesel fueled car or truck that is stopped for a foreseeable period of time in excess of five minutes.

Operators making frequent and multiple stops that require their car or truck to be stationary for time periods up to three minutes may idle up to three minutes during these circumstances.

Gasoline or Alternatively Fueled Vehicles:

No operator shall unnecessarily idle the engine of an unleaded fueled car or truck that is stopped for a foreseeable period of time in excess of one

minute.

Operators making frequent and multiple stops that require their car or truck to be stationary for time periods up to three minutes may idle up to three minutes during these circumstances.

Operators shall never leave keys in an unattended car or truck.

Exceptions to idling limitations;

This policy does not apply to situations where engine power is necessary for an associated power need such as (but not limited to) electrical or pressure generation, inverter or tool use, hoist or winch use, or lift gate or boom operation.

The health and safety of staff and citizens, the safe and efficient use of vehicles and tools, and the wise use of city resources should not be compromised by turning off the engine of any motor vehicle.

Cars and trucks may exceed any idle limit for the purpose of defogging, defrosting, or de-icing windows. Idling must end once fog, frost, or ice conditions have been eliminated.

In the field, staff may idle a vehicle for up to 15 minutes for the purpose of getting warm and/or dry if indoor accommodations are not available in the immediate work area. To reduce carbon monoxide accumulation in the cab, window(s) must remain partially open throughout.

Appropriate **Police, Fire and** Fleet Services Department staff may exempt cars or trucks from idle limits as needed or requested.

Responsibility

Department heads are responsible for enforcing this executive order in their respective departments.

PURCHASE AND USE OF IDLE REDUCING EQUIPMENT

All attempts shall be made to purchase equipment that will 1) eliminate the need for excessive engine idling and 2) save money and reduce emissions through reduced fuel use. Appropriate purchases may include, but are not limited to; portable gas or diesel powered generators rather than inverters, and equipping units with battery packs and Auxiliary Power Units (A.P.U.).

For questions regarding this policy, please call the Fleet Services Director for assistance.

Max B. Verner
Mayor

Feb. 22, 2008
Date