



Idle Free Operations

Prairie Peaks Division



The Idling Team

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- Cobie Van Den Bosch – Meter Reading
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- Kevin Flaman – O&M
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- Jerry Wiles - Engineering
- Gerald Warriner - Construction
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Idling Facts

Reducing idling by 3 minutes = 630 million litres of fuel
+ 1.4 million tonnes of CO₂

Poorly tuned engines use 15% more energy while idling

Block heaters can improve fuel economy by more than
10%

10 min of idling = 1 cup of fuel = \$100/yr



Courtesy of: www.oeenrcan.gc.ca/transportation/idling/facts

More Idling Facts

Vehicle exhaust contains > 40 hazardous air pollutants,
15 of which are carcinogens

Idling damages exhaust system & engine components

Idling is an offence in:

Victoria, Kingston, Ottawa, St. Albert,
Hinton, Jasper



Courtesy of: www.ama.ab.ca/westworld/index/articles

Myths and Facts

In the winter, vehicles must be warmed up before driving

Modern vehicles do not need to be warmed up in the winter before driving

It takes more gas to stop and restart an engine than it does to idle

Only 10 seconds of idling uses more fuel than stopping and restarting



Courtesy of: www.halifax.ca/environment

Myths and Facts

Idling a vehicle for a few minutes warms up the vehicle

Warming involves more than just the engine and other parts actually require the vehicle to operate to warm up

Restarting a vehicle is hard on the engine and starter

Wear on parts is minimal adding about \$10/yr to the cost of driving



Courtesy of: www.halifax.ca/environment

Other ways to reduce fuel consumption

Quit driving aggressively – save up to 37%

Drive the speed limit – save up to 14%

Use cruise control – save up to 14%



Courtesy of: www.edmunds.com

Why implement a program at ATCO?

- Environmental Steward
- Reduce O&M expenditures
- A step ahead of City bylaw
- Tie in with keys in ignition



The Guidelines.

Vehicles are not to be left running when the operator is **absent** from the vehicle.

Vehicles should not idle more than **3 to 5 minutes** unless exempted.

There should be no idling **near building air intakes**, school grounds, or groups of people (e.g. parades).

Block heaters (with timers) will be installed when possible as an alternative for vehicles not garaged in heated buildings.



Exemptions.

Gas-Powered Vehicles:

- Emergency scene
- In order to perform the job at hand
- Contents sensitive to extreme heat and cold
- Needs to run during service or repair
- To defrost its windshield in order to drive safely



Exemptions.

Diesel-Powered Vehicles & Equipment:

- > 0 degrees C - 3 minutes idling
- Between -23 C and 0 C - 5 minutes idling
- < -23 C - no idling restrictions

*If block heater, the exemptions will only apply when the vehicle is away from its garage

No idling:

- if vehicle is already warmed up and operator stops briefly.
- if vehicle stored inside and temperature inside > than outside.

Will be permitted to defrost its windshield in order to drive safely



Driver Checklist Idle-Free Guidelines

Ignition Off

If you are:

- Leaving the vehicle
- Near a building air intake
- Near a school, hospital or care facility
- Near a group of people

Ignition On

- When necessary at scene of emergency
- Powering equipment
- Diesel (3-5 minutes) when warmer than -23
- Diesel if colder than -23

* Don't run your engine for more than 5 minutes unless:

- If you're at an emergency scene
- To do the job at hand
- Contents sensitive to extreme heat & cold
- It needs to run during service or repair
- The windshield needs defrosting to drive safely
- Diesel (3-5 minutes) when warmer than -23 degrees Celcius
- Diesel if colder than -23 degrees Celcius

Lower fuel consumption by:

- Driving less aggressively
- Following the speed limit
- Using cruise control

ATCO Gas | works for your environment

Implementation.

- Effective June 2, 2010 in PPD
- Posters and reference cards
- Signs and dash stickers



Questions?

