



DISTRICT OF NORTH SAANICH

COUNCIL POLICY

TITLE: VEHICLES – EQUIPMENT IDLE CONTROL	NO. COU-107
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Purpose

District of North Saanich is committed to the reduction of unnecessary vehicle/equipment idling as a means of reducing air pollution and fuel expense.

Scope

This policy applies to all staff operating vehicles and equipment owned or leased by the District of North Saanich.

Definitions

Idling - Idling is the operation of a vehicle or equipment while it is not in motion and not being used to operate auxiliary equipment that is essential to the operation or safety of the vehicle, equipment, staff, or the public.

Vehicles and equipment – Vehicles and equipment refers to cars, light trucks, vans, heavy trucks, snow equipment, loaders, backhoes, and any other vehicles or equipment operated by staff utilizing fossil fuels.

Procedures

Manufacturer’s Guidelines (Recommendations) – Always follow the manufacturer’s guidelines for idling.

Initial Warm-up for Vehicles and Equipment – Idle times up to 30 seconds are allowed for vehicles during their initial warm-up and at subsequent times when the vehicle is being restarted after a prolonged period of shutdown that results in vehicle conditions similar to those prior to initial warm-up.

Operation of Vehicles in the Field - No operator shall idle the engine of a vehicle or equipment in excess of 30 seconds, if the vehicle or equipment is stopped for a foreseeable period of time. Diesel fueled vehicles or equipment should only be turned off after enough time has passed to allow the proper circulation and cooling of engine oil, coolant and turbo chargers, not to exceed three minutes.

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Exceptions

This policy does not apply to the following vehicles, equipment or situations:

1. Emergency vehicles and equipment while engaged in operational activities such as fire/rescue or police services.
2. Vehicles or equipment assisting in emergency activities.
3. Where engine power is necessary for an associated power need such as, but not limited to, electrical power, compressed air, and various power take-off devices such as auxiliary hydraulics.
4. Vehicles and equipment may idle for the purposes of defogging, defrosting or de-icing windows. Idling must end when the fog, frost or icy conditions have been eliminated. When window ice or frost conditions are present, attempts to remove snow, ice or frost from the windows with a scraper must be attempted before idling.
5. Vehicles and equipment used solely to power emergency lighting and two way radios can operate and idling can take place at intervals to charge the batteries.
6. Staff may idle vehicles for the purpose of getting warm, dry or cool for the well being of the operator and passengers, if indoor accommodations are not available at the job site.
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