

CITY OF TERRACE POLICY NO. 97



TITLE: CITY OF TERRACE IDLING POLICY

APPROVED: August 24, 2009

RESOLUTION NO.: 372-2009

REVISED:

RESOLUTION NO.:

PREAMBLE:

The City of Terrace has committed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by signing onto the BC Climate Action Charter. Eliminating unnecessary vehicle/equipment idling supports this commitment while helping to reduce air pollution and make efficient use of City resources by decreasing fuel costs.

The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines for unnecessary idling of municipal vehicles and equipment and to provide leadership in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and improving air quality community wide.

DEFINITIONS:

“Idling” – means the operation of a vehicle or equipment while it is not in motion and not being used to operate auxiliary equipment essential to the operation of the vehicle or equipment.

“Fuels” – for the purposes of this policy, means all vehicles or equipment that run on fossil fuels which includes gasoline, diesel, propane and natural gas.

“Vehicles” – for the purposes of this policy, vehicles or equipment refers to cars, light trucks, vans, heavy trucks, snow equipment, loaders, backhoes, street sweepers, and any other equipment operated by staff and utilizing the above fuels.

“Operator” – means any City staff operating the above-listed vehicle types, and any City contractor operating vehicles on City property.

“City Facility” – City Facility means any public building owned by the City of Terrace.

POLICY:

This policy requires Operators to eliminate unnecessary engine idling while vehicles or equipment are not required to be running. This Policy applies to all City vehicles or equipment owned, leased, rented or operated by the City of Terrace.

This policy requires that all City Facilities are declared idle-free zones, thus this policy also applies to contractors working at a City facility or any member of the public operating a vehicle at a City Facility.

PROCEDURES:

1. **Manufacturer's Guidelines**

- a. Always follow the manufacturer's guidelines and recommendations for idling for specialized equipment and vehicles.

2. **Initial Warm-up**

- a. Gasoline and Alternative Fueled Vehicles:

Idle times up to three (3) minutes are allowed for vehicles during their initial shift warm-up and subsequent times when the vehicle is being restarted after a prolonged period of shut down that result in vehicle conditions similar to those prior to initial shift warm-up.

- b. Diesel Fueled Vehicles and Equipment:

Idle times up to three (3) minutes may be allowed for diesel fueled vehicles/equipment during initial shift warm-up, and subsequent times when the vehicles/equipment are/is restarted after a prolonged period of shut down.

3. **Operation of Equipment in the Field**

- a. Operation of Gasoline and Alternative Fuel Vehicles:

No Operator shall idle the engine of a gasoline or alternative fuel vehicle in excess of 60 seconds, if the vehicle is stopped for a foreseeable period of time. Operators making multiple or frequent stops that require their vehicles to be stationary for time periods of several minutes may idle up to three (3) minutes in such circumstances.

- b. Diesel Fuel Vehicles/Equipment:

No Operator shall idle the engine of a diesel fueled vehicle in excess of three (3) minutes if the vehicle is stopped for a foreseeable period of time. Diesel fueled vehicles/equipment should only be turned off after enough time has passed to allow the proper circulation and cooling of the engine oil, coolant, and turbo chargers, not to exceed three (3) minutes.

4. Exceptions

At all times Operators must use their own discretion. In general this Policy does not apply to the following vehicles, equipment or situations:

- a. Emergency vehicles and equipment engaged in operational activities such as fire, police, or ambulance services.
- b. Vehicles that are required to idle in order to operate auxiliary equipment (including but not limited to hydraulic equipment, welding equipment, pumps, compressors or lights) and vehicles equipped with temperature sensitive equipment.
- c. Vehicles that must be kept at an appropriate temperature for the health and safety of occupants being transported (persons or animals).
- d. Vehicles may idle for the purpose of defogging, defrosting or de-icing windows. Idling must end when fog, frost or ice 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.
- e. Vehicles and equipment that are being serviced; for which idling is required as part of a repair or regular pre-check maintenance process.
- f. During the winter season with below zero temperatures and/or blizzard conditions and during summer periods of extreme heat, extended idling periods may be necessary for the well-being of the Operator and passengers.
- g. Where safety may be compromised by shutting down the engine, vehicle/equipment may idle at the discretion of the Operator.
- h. Vehicles engaged in a parade.

DATE: *Aug 24/09*

CLERK: *A. Fisher*