

Purpose:

This policy is intended to reduce City operation expenses, lower emissions produced by City vehicles and improve air quality for residents and employees. The City of Red Deer strives to improve the quality of life for its residents by protecting the natural environment.

Research:

Well-documented research has shown that:

- Modern day engines typically do not require more than 30 seconds of warm up time.
- Excessive idling (longer than 10 seconds) damages engines and releases needless pollutants into the environment.
- Block-heaters are good for engines and the environment.

Policy Statement(s):

1. City vehicles are not to be left running when the operator is absent from the vehicle.
2. City vehicles are not permitted to idle more than 3 to 5 minutes unless exempted below.
3. There shall be no idling near building air intakes, school grounds, or groups of people (e.g. parades).
4. Block heaters (with timers) will be installed when possible as an alternative for vehicles not garaged in heated buildings.

Exemptions:**A. Emergency Services and other City vehicles:**

1. Emergency Services and other City vehicles may idle at the scene of an emergency where lights and other accessories are needed in order to respond to the situation. This includes vehicles that need to run in order to charge batteries and run lights, etc. for their primary function. If the principal vehicle battery is not sufficient to run those instruments The City will consider installing an extra powerful battery.
2. Emergency Services and other City vehicles may idle during a non-emergency response situation in order to perform the job at hand and keep the battery charged (e.g. to power convertors for the use of hand tools).
3. Emergency vehicles which have contents sensitive to extreme heat and cold may be allowed to idle as necessary to maintain adequate internal temperatures.
4. Vehicles with passenger compartments may idle in order to maintain a reasonable compartment temperature of 18 degrees C.
5. Transit vehicles when maintaining their schedules or waiting for passengers at the bus terminal or bus stop may have extended idling times- typically of 5 minutes while on a layover.
6. Any vehicle that needs to run during service or repair is permitted to idle only for as long as is necessary.
7. Any vehicle that needs to defrost its windshield in order to drive safely is permitted to idle only for as long as it takes to defrost and maintain a clear windshield.

B. Diesel-Powered Vehicles & Equipment:

1. When the outside temperature is above 0 degrees C, a diesel engine will be permitted to warm up for 3 minutes.
2. When the outside temperature is between -23 C and 0 C a diesel engine will be permitted to warm up for 5 minutes.
3. If the outside temperature is below -23 C, and no nuisance is created, a diesel engine will not be subject to idling restrictions.

4. When a diesel-powered vehicle has a block heater (with a timer) the above exemptions #1-3 will only apply when the vehicle is away from its garage.
5. No idling is allowed if a diesel vehicle is already warmed up and an operator stops the vehicle for a short time (e.g. a coffee break).
8. No idling is allowed if a diesel vehicle is stored inside and the inside temperature is higher than outside.
9. Ice maintenance equipment must stay running to keep the pumps from freezing. If the unit is not working it does not need to idle.

C. Hybrid vehicles

Any vehicle that eliminates the emission of green house gases during the idling phase of operation.

Responsibilities:

The Public Works Manager:

Is responsible for the development of anti-idling policy and procedures for City vehicles. The Public Works Manager will monitor the effectiveness of this program and make recommendations for change as required.

Scope/Application:

This applies to all Emergency Services vehicles and City owned Fleet vehicles.

Definitions:

Idle / Idling: Means the operation of a vehicle engine while the vehicle is not in motion.

Nuisance: Includes any use of or activity upon any property which is offensive to any person, or has or may have a detrimental impact upon any person or other property in the neighborhood (Community Standards bylaw)

Authority/Responsibility to Implement:

The Public Works Manager through the Director of Development Services.

References/Links:

- 2020- CA Operating Vehicles and Powered Mobile Equipment (draft revision)
- www.fleetsmart.gc.ca
- Natural Resources Canada <http://www.nrcan-rncan.gc.ca/com/index-eng.php>

Inquiries/Contact Person:

Public Works Manager

Document History:

Date	Approver / Reviewer	Title
Original Approval: December 16, 2008	"Craig Curtis"	City Manager