



EWEB fleet idle reduction guidelines

April 2010

Why does EWEB have idle reduction guidelines?

It's common sense – we want to reduce air pollution and greenhouse gases, provide a safer, healthier working environment for employees and save money.

Reduced idling will contribute to:

- Improved air quality, less pollution will be emitted from vehicles
- More efficient use of fossil fuels and cost savings
- Improved health of our employees
- Reduced noise pollution
- Reduced wear and service needs on vehicles and equipment.

What are EWEB idle reduction guidelines?

- If your engine is going to idle more than 20 seconds, turn it off.

What is vehicle idling?

It's the unnecessary running of a car or truck engine while the vehicle is stopped for a foreseeable period of time and not in a mode required to run equipment or appliances. This does not include being stopped in traffic or at stop lights.

When do I need to turn the vehicle off?

- As a rule of thumb if you leave your vehicle you probably need to turn it off. If you are sitting in it doing paperwork or on the phone you'll need to turn it off – during all but the coldest days.

What are a few examples of unnecessary idling?

- Sitting in the vehicle in a parking lot or side of the road during most weather. The interior of your vehicle will stay warm/cool for 5-10 minutes in all but the most extreme weather.
- Leaving the vehicle running when unattended to heat or cool the interior – unless it's cold and you are drying gear. Heaters and air conditions usually bring the vehicles interior into a comfortable range in a short time and work most effectively when the vehicle is being driven.
- Letting the engine run to charge a cell phone.

Is all engine idling prohibited?

No. There will be times when idling is unavoidable such as;

- When the engine is used to power auxiliary units such as bucket trucks, hydraulic, tool use, winch or boom equipment.
- When the vehicle is being repaired.
- When gear is drying on very wet days.

Are there other times when it's Ok to idle not listed here?

Probably, but it must be necessary, for example running the engine to operate the windshield defroster to clear it on extremely cold days while you clear snow or ice off the vehicle or wait to be able to see out the windshield.

Am I causing more wear and tear on the vehicle or creating more pollution by stopping and starting the engine?

No. Modern vehicle engines don't require a lot of warming up before they are driven. The best way to warm up a vehicle is actually to drive it – this creates better combustion of the fuel.

An idling engine causes more pollution by running than by stopping and starting the vehicle. The trade off for light-medium vehicles is about 10 seconds, for medium-heavy duty diesel engines is about 20-30 seconds.

What are the health effects of fuel use and idling?

- Benzene, a fundamental component of gasoline and diesel fuel and exhaust, causes cancer in humans. Gasoline exhaust also contains cancer-causing 1,3-butadiene, formaldehyde and acetaldehyde.
- Gasoline and diesel exhausts contain nitrogen oxides, carbon monoxide and sulfur dioxide. Nitrogen oxides can damage lung tissue, lower the body's resistance to respiratory infection and worsen chronic lung diseases such as asthma. Nitrogen oxides react in the atmosphere with hydrocarbons to form ozone, the major component of smog. Ozone is a strong irritant to the eyes and respiratory tract.

Did you know benzene levels are already high in Oregon?

- Oregon has some of the highest reported levels of benzene in the United States and our gasoline is the major source. Even though the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency adopted a rule to limit the level of benzene in gasoline in the Northwest by 2010, the benzene levels will still be two times higher than the national safe average.
- Why? Refineries in the Northwest rely on crude oil from Alaska that is naturally high in benzene and most don't have the equipment to remove the benzene when producing the gasoline we use.

Why is EWEB setting up no idling zones around our yards and customer area?

- To help improve air quality for all staff
- Lead by example around our own facilities

How will I know where the zones are?

The zones will be clearly marked and include:

- Customer car park at the entrance to EWEB
- Loading docks and receiving docks for deliveries
- Energy Management Services car park
- Additional zones may be set up when staff move to the Roosevelt Operation Centre.

How are we going to measure progress?

- Idle reduction is one way to help achieve the 10% fuel reduction goal we have for 2010. So we'll be tracking fuel use and looking at idling times of vehicles with GPS units installed.