



September 20, 2006

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SUBJECT: **No Idle Policy and Fuel Conservation**

Energy conservation continues to be a significant issue for our agency. Over the years, policies have been developed and implemented to ensure that limited resources are utilized in the most cost-effective, efficient manner possible. With dramatically rising fuel rates, we must step up to the plate and reduce consumption levels.

Therefore, we are asking each of you to implement a "No Idle Policy" within your organization. The policy should simply require all vehicle operators to turn off their engines prior to leaving their vehicles. An exception to this policy may be granted when idling is necessary for specific health, safety, or operational reasons.

One of the most powerful arguments in favor of reduced idling is cost savings. By reducing idling time by 50 percent, the annual estimated fuel savings could be as much as \$500,000. It also greatly reduces engine wear, which will also reduce engine maintenance cost and extend the life of most engines. Reduced idling will also have a favorable effect on air quality, especially in the urban areas where most of our facilities are located. Air pollution is a major public health concern and can cause or aggravate a number of illnesses.

Efforts to reduce idling in work zones can also contribute to a substantial reduction in overall fuel consumption. By working with your TEF organization, it may be possible to modify equipment to extend the time equipment can operate without idling. Low energy consumption associated with the use of strobes and LEDs are currently making this a cost-effective tradeoff.

We have also attached some suggestions that should be taken into consideration as we increase our fuel conservation efforts. Please have your organization implement as many of these suggestions as possible/practical. If your organization has additional suggestions that would contribute to reduced fuel usage, please incorporate those as appropriate. Thank you for your support of this issue.

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Additional Suggestions for Reducing Fuel Usage

- **Combine trips.** Choose the shortest route to your destination and combine short trips whenever possible. Several short trips taken from a cold start can use twice as much fuel as a longer, multi-stop trip of the same distance with a warm engine.
- **Avoid long warm-ups.** Even on cold winter mornings, a vehicle does not need more than a minute to be ready to go. Idling longer than one minute to warm a vehicle consumes fuel unnecessarily.
- **Drive intelligently; avoid fast accelerations and sudden stops.** Quick accelerations and sudden stops over-exert your engine and burns extra fuel.
- **Do not rest your foot on the brake while driving.** The slightest pressure will cause a drag on the brakes that will demand additional gas use and cause excessive wear on the brakes.
- **Check your tire pressure.** For every pound of under inflation, you can lose up to six percent in gas mileage.
- **Keep your fuel cap on tightly.** Tightening the fuel cap on your vehicles will prevent evaporation.
- **Carpool.** Carpooling reduces travel monotony and gas expense. Conversation helps to keep the driver alert.
- **Consider the use of technology such as teleconferencing or video conferencing in lieu of travel.**

CC/KJD:cd

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