



Applies to: FOD Employees
Issued: December 2006
Revised: April 2007

BACKGROUND

To help minimize air pollution and maximize fuel efficiency, it is the responsibility of all FOD employees to operate state vehicles and equipment in an environmentally and economically responsible manner. It is known that:

- One hour of idling consumes approximately one gallon of fuel.
- Idling for one hour equates to approximately 33 miles of engine wear on a standard automobile.
- Idling causes premature engine wear, and an idling engine creates minimal oil pressure, resulting in insufficient engine lubrication.
- Diesel engines actually cool down when idling during winter, causing cab heat-loss.
- Franklin County does not meet federal standards for ozone and particulate pollution. Idling contributes to poor air quality that may result in cost-mandated controls.

POLICY GUIDELINES

For the above reasons, as of January 1, 2007, all operators of FOD-owned or -operated vehicles are asked to ...

1. Not allow FOD vehicles and equipment to idle for any length of time, unless idling the vehicle is necessary to accomplish work-related tasks.
2. Minimize idling and conserve fuel whenever possible.
3. Ensure an assigned vehicle is properly maintained.
4. Ensure tires are properly inflated. Under-inflation decreases fuel economy and cuts short the life of the tire.
5. Plan and map out trips to minimize distances traveled.
6. Avoid “jackrabbit” starts by accelerating gradually and anticipate stops to avoid sudden braking.
7. Obey posted speed limits. Excessive speed reduces fuel economy, increases air pollution, creates hazardous driving conditions, and is unlawful.
8. Carpool whenever possible or practical.
9. Schedule meetings wisely, especially if travel is required. Meeting times and locations should be selected so as to minimize the travel of the majority of the participants.
10. Reduce the amount of vehicle warm-up time. Consult vehicle manual to determine the manufacturer’s recommendations for guidance on idling in extreme weather conditions.
11. Eliminate unnecessary weight in the vehicle.
12. Ensure that vehicle emission controls, systems, and components are not altered or disconnected unless approved by Vehicle and Equipment Maintenance.



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REPORTING

Please report noncompliance to Service2Facilities (service2facilities@osu.edu or 292-HELP). Include the date, time, location, description of the vehicle, and vehicle license number. Service2Facilities will follow its procedure for appropriate follow-up.