

**SALT LAKE COUNTY  
COUNTYWIDE POLICY  
ON  
VEHICLE ENGINE IDLING**

**Purpose –**

The purpose of this policy is to establish a set of guidelines for vehicle idling in Salt Lake County owned vehicles. Salt Lake County employees can play an important role in improving air quality, reducing the consumption of petroleum products and reducing maintenance costs by limiting the amount of time vehicles engines are allowed to idle.

**1.0 Definitions**

- 1.1 “Driver” means any person who drives, operates, or is in actual physical control of a vehicle.
- 1.2 “Emergency” means a sudden, urgent, usually unforeseen, occurrence.
- 1.3 “Equipment Operator” means any person who is in actual physical control of a piece of off-road equipment.
- 1.4 “Gross Vehicle Weight Rating” means the weight specified by the manufacturer as the loaded weight of a single vehicle.
- 1.5 “Heavy-Duty Vehicle” means any on-road motor vehicle with a manufacturer’s gross vehicle weight rating greater than 14,000 pounds.
- 1.6 “Idling” means the engine is running while the vehicle is stationary or the piece of off-road equipment is not performing work.
- 1.7 “Medium-Duty Vehicle” means any on-road motor vehicle with a manufacturer’s gross vehicle weight rating of 6,001 – 14,000 pounds.
- 1.8 “Official Traffic Control Device” means any sign, signal, marking or device placed or erected by authority of a public body or official having jurisdiction, for the purpose of regulating, warning or guiding traffic, but does not include islands, curbs, traffic barriers, speed humps, or other roadway design features.
- 1.9 “Off-Road Equipment” means all non-road equipment with a horsepower rating of 50 or more.
- 1.10 “Revenue Generating Vehicle” means a vehicle used to transport passengers for a fee.
- 1.11 “Vehicle” means any on-road, self-propelled vehicle that is required to be registered and have a license plate by the Department of Motor Vehicles.

**2.0 Vehicle Idling Prohibited**

- 2.1 Vehicle idling is prohibited in Salt Lake County for all vehicles regardless of gross vehicle weight rating, all heavy-duty vehicles regardless of fuel being used, all off-road diesel powered equipment regardless of horsepower rating and all off-road equipment regardless of fuel being used, except as provided by exemption in section 3.0.

- 2.2 A driver of a County vehicle must:  
 Turn off the engine upon stopping at a destination;  
 Not cause or allow an engine to idle at any location for:  
     More than 1 minute consecutively; or  
     Periods aggregating more than five minutes in any one-hour period.
- 2.3 An equipment operator of an off-road piece of equipment must not cause or allow an off-road piece of equipment or idle at any location for:  
     More than 2 minutes consecutively; or  
     Periods aggregating more than five minutes in any one-hour period.
- 2.4 A driver of a vehicle transporting the elderly or youth on behalf of Salt Lake County, must not cause or allow a vehicle to idle at any location for more than 10 minutes in any 60-minute period to maintain passenger comfort while non-driving passengers are on board.

### **3.0 Exemptions to this Policy**

- 3.1 This policy does not apply to a vehicle or piece of equipment for the period or periods during which:
- 3.1.1 Idling is necessary while stopped;
- 3.1.1.1 For police vehicles;
- 3.1.1.2 For an official traffic control signal or official traffic control device to operate;
- 3.1.1.3 At a traffic control signal or traffic control device;
- 3.1.1.4 For traffic conditions over which a driver has no control, including, but not limited to: stopped in a line of traffic, stopped at a railroad crossing or stopped at a construction zone;
- 3.1.1.5 At the direction of a police officer or other official traffic controller.
- 3.1.2 Idling is necessary for testing, maintenance, repair or diagnostic purposes.
- 3.1.3 Idling is necessary to ascertain that the vehicle and/or off-road piece of equipment is in safe operating condition and is equipped as required by all provisions of law and established safety policies.
- 3.1.4 The vehicle is not expected to restart due to mechanical or electrical problems.
- 3.1.5 Idling the engine is required to power auxiliary equipment other than a heater or air conditioner, e.g. hoist, lift, computers, safety lighting.
- 3.1.6 Idling is necessary to operate defrosters, heaters, air conditioners or other equipment to prevent a safety or health emergency, but not solely for the comfort of the driver or passengers.
- 3.1.7 Idling is necessary to cool down a turbo-charged heavy-duty vehicle in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendation.

**4.0 Policy Oversight**

- 4.1 The Salt Lake County Fleet Board will have oversight of this policy.
- 4.2 Reports of County employees violating this policy will be submitted to Salt Lake County Fleet Management.
- 4.3 Salt Lake County Fleet Management will notify the appropriate Director of any reports received of idling. Directors will be expected to take action with regards to their employees.
- 4.4 Continued violations will be reported by Fleet Management to the Fleet Board, Department Director and Elected Official.

APPROVED and PASSED this 28 day of October, 2008.

SALT LAKE COUNTY COUNCIL

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Michael Jensen, Chair

ATTEST:

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Sherrie Swensen, County Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

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District Attorney's Office      Date