

Superseded: New

PURPOSE

Motor vehicle and equipment emissions are the single largest source of smog causing pollutants in Ontario. These emissions can be harmful to human health and the natural environment. For this reason, the City of Sarnia has adopted the following policy to reduce air pollutants resulting from the operation of vehicles and equipment owned and/or used by the City.

POLICY STATEMENT

The City of Sarnia will discourage the unnecessary idling of City of Sarnia vehicles and equipment to reduce the amount of carbon dioxide and smog pollutants being released into the atmosphere.

DEFINITIONS

Idling – Parking a vehicle and keeping it running while it is not operational or performing a job function.

APPLICATION

This policy applies to all City employees who operate City of Sarnia Vehicles.

1. City vehicles and equipment shall never be left idling when unattended.
2. Engine warm-up periods will not exceed 3 minutes (provided proper airbrake pressure and/or other critical settings have been reached).
3. Vehicles shall be shut off whenever idling time is expected to exceed 3 minutes.
4. This policy applies to all City owned, leased, and/or rented vehicles and equipment.
5. City employees using their personal vehicles on City business are required to follow this policy.

The following circumstances are exempt from the application of this policy:

- a) Vehicle maintenance and diagnostic purposes (to be kept at an absolute required minimum).
- b) Extreme cold weather conditions, heat alerts, or any other time when the health and safety of employees may be jeopardized.
- c) The unit is not expected to be able to restart due to a mechanical problem (must be repaired ASAP).
- d) The engine is immediately required to power auxiliary equipment (e.g. hoist, lift platform, hydraulic tools, compactors, computers, etc.).

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MANAGEMENT/SUPERVISORY RESPONSIBILITIES

The City Manager, department heads, managers and supervisors have a responsibility to:

- Ensure that staff are aware of the policy
- Educate and inform drivers when they are spotted idling in non-operational situations
- Post information relating to the idle free policy in all workplaces.
- Investigate and invest in technologies that limit vehicle idling, where appropriate.

Workers/drivers/operators that do not follow the guidelines of this policy are subject to the disciplinary process.

EXEMPTIONS

- Sarnia Fire Rescue Services Emergency Vehicles
- Sarnia Transit Buses