POLICY F003: ***Vehicle Excess Idling***

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1. OVERVIEW

1.1. Purpose

1.1.1. The purpose of this policy is to establish standard procedures for what is considered to be excess idling.

1.1.2. The intent is to reduce fuel consumption, maintenance cost, vehicle wear and air pollution.

1.2. Definition

1.2.1. Idling is defined as a situation when a vehicle is not moving but the engine is working either with transmission set in park, or in drive/reverse/neutral mode with the brake pressed.

1.2.2. Excess idling is defined as maintaining a stopped vehicle with the engine running for five (5) minutes or longer.

1.3. Audience

1.3.1. State drivers while in the Scope of Employment.

1.3.2. Agency-owned vehicles, vehicles rented, leased and privately owned (mileage reimbursement).

1.4. Facts

1.4.1. Idling for more than just 10 seconds uses more fuel than restarting the engine.

1.4.2. Idling increases fuel bill to an agency.

1.4.3. Idling results in 0 MPG.

1.4.4. Idling for 10 minutes a day uses more than 27 gallons of fuel a year.

1.4.5. Idling for 10 minutes uses as much fuel as it takes to travel 5 miles.

1.4.6. Idling accelerates replacement of vehicle fluids like engine and transmission oil and engine coolant without an increase of odometer miles, i.e., oil changes must be performed more frequently.

1.4.7. Idling causes uneven powertrain cooling due to lack of natural air flow.

1.4.8. Idling prevents complete fuel combustion, and causes fuel condensation residue on engine cylinder walls.

1.4.9. Idling produces needless emissions from the exhaust.

1.4.10. Idling in excess of 30 seconds in cold weather to warm the vehicle does not provide mechanical benefit to vehicle's functionality.

1.4.11. Idling in winter conditions increases emissions by more than double comparing to the level of emissions immediately after a "cold start."

2. GENERAL TERMS

2.1. Policy

2.1.1. Vehicle's engine must be tuned off upon reaching a destination.

2.1.2. Vehicles must be shut off during short travel stops when not in moving traffic. Examples:

2.1.2.1. Refueling at a gas/fill station.

2.1.2.2. Waiting for other passengers.

2.1.2.3. Standstill traffic (e.g., closed railway crossing, all road lanes temporarily closed due to a major wreck or inclement weather).

2.1.2.4. Temporary stop at a store or a restaurant.

2.1.3. Vehicles must not be kept running or idling while unattended. Keys to the vehicle must be removed from the ignition and maintained by the operator along with the Fleet Card at all times.

2.1.4. The use of drive-thru services and idling during bona fide meal periods and break times is prohibited; drivers must leave the vehicle and go inside the restaurant instead.

2.2. Other:

2.2.1. Agencies whose mission requires excess idling must develop and follow accelerated maintenance schedule.

2.2.2. Spending meal periods in a vehicle is highly discouraged as it has negative impact on vehicle's interior condition.

2.2.3. Eating while driving: per 47 O.S. §11-901b the operator of every vehicle, while driving, shall devote their full time and attention to such driving.

3. EXCEPTIONS

3.1. Weather:

3.1.1. Windows are iced or heavily frosted and windshield defrost is required for clear visibility.

3.1.1.1. Do not use wipers to deice the windshield.

3.1.1.2. Turn the engine off after window defrost is complete.

3.1.2. When prolonged extreme or hazardous weather and/or working environment such as cold, heat, humidity and/or dust, has adverse impact on regular job duties such as:

3.1.2.1. Investigations and/or inspections.

3.1.2.2. Off road/open field work operations.

3.1.2.3. Providing safety or security.

3.1.3. When prolonged extreme or hazardous weather and/or working environment such as cold, heat, humidity and/or dust, has adverse impact on transported assets such as:

3.1.3.1. Electronic accessories and equipment.

3.1.3.2. Livestock and trained animals (e.g., police dog).

3.1.3.3. Goods requiring climate controlled environment.

3.1.4. During extreme weather conditions when vehicle provided heat or cold is needed for passenger's safety in circumstances of standstill traffic (e.g., major wreck, closed railway crossing).

3.2. Equipment:

3.2.1. When vehicle's accessories and systems are actively needed to perform job duty, e.g.,

3.2.1.1. Electronic: radios, computers, emergency sirens and lights.

3.2.1.2. Electric: bumper winch, A/C unit.

3.2.1.3. Pneumatic: lift gate, lift bed, wrecker bed, crane.

3.2.2. Problem with a vehicle's battery (risk of not being able to restart the engine).

3.3. Safety:

3.3.1. Safety or security concern of a driver; passengers or cargo require the use of drive-thru services.

3.3.2. Stop-and-go traffic, i.e., traffic with frequent stops, slow acceleration and/or low speeds.