

Effective Date: September 9, 2008

Page 1 of 3

POLICY
VEHICLE ANTI-IDLING AND FUEL CONSERVATION

Cancels: None

Approved by: BoCC

POL – 300.8 **VEHICLE ANTI-IDLING AND FUEL CONSERVATION**

This policy applies to the operation of every gas or diesel- powered County-owned vehicle.

1. PURPOSE:

To protect public and employee health by preventing exposure to potentially harmful exhaust, to improve the environment by reducing emissions of greenhouse gases and toxic air contaminants, and to reduce costs by reducing fuel expenditures and wear and tear on engines.

2. REFERENCES:

“Prevention of Waste in County Government” Ordinance 1999-233.

3. DEFINITIONS:

3.1 “County vehicles” means cars, trucks, vans, watercraft, and all on- and off-road equipment owned, leased, or rented by Kitsap County.

3.2 “Idle” means operation of a vehicle’s primary propulsion engine while the vehicle is not moving.

3.3 “Layover” means a short stop or break in a journey, usually imposed by scheduling requirements.

4. POLICIES:

4.1 Kitsap County employees shall not cause or permit gas-powered vehicles covered by this policy to idle for more than 30 seconds or a diesel-powered vehicle for more than three minutes in a 60-minute period, except as allowed under policy exemptions described in section 4.6. Vehicles idling within these allowed limits must do so outside of buildings and away from fresh air intakes, air conditioners, and windows.

4.2 Kitsap County employees shall avoid sudden stops and quick acceleration, whenever possible, while driving on County business.

4.3 Kitsap County employees driving assigned vehicles shall ensure that the tires are always properly inflated and check tire pressures at least monthly.

4.4 Kitsap County employees driving assigned vehicles shall ensure those vehicles are in proper operating condition and kept well maintained.

4.5 Kitsap County employees shall schedule and plan meetings, appointments, and site visits wisely, and shall carpool when practical. Meeting times and locations shall be scheduled so as to minimize the travel distances for the participants. Public transportation shall be used in lieu of rental cars when traveling out-of-state.

4.6 Kitsap County employees shall obey posted speed limits while driving on County business, except in emergency or law-enforcement responses. Excessive speed reduces fuel economy, increases air pollution, creates hazardous driving conditions, and is illegal.

4.7 The following are Policy Exemptions:

4.7.1 A vehicle may idle while forced to remain motionless because of traffic congestion, when required to yield the right of way to responding emergency vehicles, at an official traffic control device or signal, or at the direction of a law enforcement official.

4.7.2 A vehicle may idle to prevent a safety or health emergency.

4.7.3 A vehicle may idle to operate auxiliary equipment, such as on-board operations for Public Works and law enforcement.

4.7.4 An emergency vehicle or any vehicle being used in an emergency capacity may idle while in emergency or training mode and not for the convenience of the vehicle operator.

4.7.5 A vehicle may idle for maintenance, servicing, repairing, or diagnostic purposes if idling is required for such activity.

4.7.6 A vehicle may idle as part of a state or federal inspection to verify that all equipment is in good working order, provided idling is required as part of the inspection.

4.7.7 A vehicle may idle due to mechanical difficulties over which the driver has no control. The claim of mechanical difficulties should be supported by work order documentation.

4.7.8 Operating an auxiliary power unit, generator set, or other mobile idle reduction technology as a means to heat, air condition, or provide electrical power as an alternative to idling the main engine is allowed and shall not be considered idling.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS:

5.1 Drivers will shut off vehicle engines immediately upon reaching their destination, except H.D. diesel engines, which require a two minute "cool down" period.

5.2 Vehicles will not idle while waiting for passengers, attending meetings, or during layovers.

5.3 Vehicles will not idle solely for the purpose of heating or cooling the inside of the vehicle before operation unless the supervisor authorizes the use of the vehicle heater or defroster according to the following guidelines:

5.3.1 If ambient temperature is between 10 degrees F and 32 degree F, vehicle may idle 5 minutes maximum.

5.3.2 If the ambient temperature is less than 10 degrees F, vehicle may idle for 15 minutes maximum.

6. PROCEDURES: None

7. RESPONSIBILITIES:

7.1 Each supervisor will monitor for compliance and inform the vehicle operator of violation at the time of the infraction, and document it.

7.2 All other Kitsap County departments not under ER & R shall be responsible for monitoring and verifying compliance of their own vehicles.

Note: Violation of this policy may lead to discipline.

7.3 Each supervisor will coordinate with Risk Management to assure employees receive appropriate vehicle operator training for compliance with this policy.

9. APPENDICES: None