

# Township of Hamilton

## *Anti Idling Policy*

01/04/2007

A vehicle idling gets zero miles per gallon. Unnecessary idling wastes fuel and pollutes. Running an engine at low speed (Idling) also causes twice the wear on internal parts compared to driving at regular speeds. The breakeven point for shutting off and restarting gasoline engines or leaving it to idle is 30 seconds – from the point of view of both emissions and fuel consumption. Idling of vehicles consumes @ 17% of the fuel that a vehicle has on board.

Air pollution problems are caused in large part by emissions from automobiles and trucks. Exhaust from vehicles (both on and off road) is a substantial source of carbon monoxide, toxic air contaminants and greenhouse gases.

Effective immediately, unless exempted in the following section, NO Township vehicle or piece of equipment owned or leased by Hamilton Township is to be idled in a non emergency situation. The operator of the vehicle/equipment is to turn off the unit and the keys are to be removed from the ignition.

### **EXEMPTIONS**

This policy does not apply to a vehicle or piece of equipment for the period or periods during which:

1. Emergency vehicles at scenes where lights, PTO's and/or other accessories are needed to accomplish the mission;
2. Division of Police vehicles working traffic enforcement details;
3. Department of Public Works, Department of Water Pollution Control, Department of Engineering, Planning and Inspections vehicles at job sites requiring the use of emergency or safety lights, PTO's and /or other accessories to accomplish their assignment; and
4. Inclement weather situations and the supervisor authorizes the use of the vehicle/equipment heater-defroster for the work crews comfort according to the guidelines listed below;  
**If the outside temperature is:** Above 32 degrees F: 5 minute maximum.  
Between -10 and 32 degrees F 15 minute maximum  
Below -10 degrees F: as necessary
5. Idling necessary for testing, maintenance, and repair or diagnostic purposes;
6. The vehicle is not expected to restart due to mechanical or electrical problems;
7. 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;
8. Idling is necessary to cool down a turbo-charged heavy duty vehicle in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendation

Furthermore, operators of vehicle/equipment and supervisors will be judicious in the idling of units at emergency scenes and job sites. If not all units at the scene/site need to be idling, those units must be turned off and the keys removed from the ignition.

Each vehicle/equipment operator will be responsible for the idling operation of their unit and will have the unit keys in their possession to ensure that crewmembers do not arbitrarily violate the policy without the operator's knowledge.

Supervisors will be responsible for the adherence and enforcement of the idling policy.

Violations of the policy will be documented as to the vehicle/equipment operator, vehicle #, location, date and time, weather conditions, and circumstances of the alleged violation.

The vehicle/equipment operator will be informed of the violation by the supervisor at the time of the infraction.

Discipline will be per Township of Hamilton disciplinary procedures, and union contracts.