



**WATER AND WASTEWATER DIVISION
DEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE**

To: Water and Sewer Operations Staff

From: David Jurgens, P.E.
Water and Wastewater Director

Date: July 26, 2007

Re: Water and Sewer Operations Vehicle Idling Policy

This policy is adopted for the purpose of reducing unnecessary idling of city vehicles. The benefits of reduced engine idling include reduced fuel use and related costs, reduced vehicle wear, better air quality and a better public image. Your cooperation is necessary for the success of this policy.

Vehicle Idling Policy:

Idling of vehicles wastes fuel, creates pollution and causes premature engine wear. It is everyone's responsibility to minimize fleet operating costs while reducing harmful effects to the environment. Violators are subject to disciplinary action.

City fleet vehicles will not be parked with the engine running unless it is essential for performance of work and the time period does not exceed 5 minutes. Exceptions include:

- *Initial warm-up period of vehicle.*
- *Extreme cold or extreme heat*
- *Water and Sewer Maintenance crews in cold conditions are to have 1 vehicle on site running to combat staff getting wet and suffering from hypothermia.*
- *12 volt pumps are utilized by meter services and water and sewer maintenance to remove water from meter vaults, water leak pits, etc. Vehicles should only idle when the equipment is being utilized.*
- *The Sewer Video/TV truck utilizes its engine to provide necessary power to run the camera unit, etc. This vehicle should only idle when the equipment is being utilized.*
- *Light bars are to be used in hazardous locations for the protection of life and city property. Light bars are to be used without causing the vehicle to become inoperable, which depending on fleet recommendations may require the vehicle to be idling. Some light bars require the vehicle to idle at all times; if this is the case, a label is provided by the switch mechanism. Vehicles should only idle when the equipment is being utilized.*
- *Vehicle radio communication normally requires that the key is turned to on/accessories. The radio should be used in such a way as to not cause the vehicle to become inoperable. Depending on fleet recommendations, this could require the vehicle to be idling. Idling should only be done when the equipment is being utilized.*
- *Power Inverters require that the vehicle is idling. Inverters are used for confined space blowers and electrical equipment including drill, saws, etc. Idling should only be done when the equipment is being utilized.*