

## **IDLING FACTS AND TIPS**

### ***OPERATIONAL CONSIDERATIONS***

Vehicles are a lot different today than they were just 15 years ago. Today's engine manufacturers typically recommend a warm up time of 5 minutes or less.

When you adopt alternatives to long-duration idling, you save money on fuel expenses and reduce engine maintenance costs.

Idling for more than 10 seconds uses more fuel than restarting your engine.

Idling causes spark plugs to become dirtier more quickly. This can cause an increase in fuel consumption by 4 to 5 percent.

Idling cumulatively wastes more than 10 billion gallons of gasoline each year.

### ***ENVIRONMENTAL AND HEALTH CONSIDERATIONS***

Vehicle exhaust is one of the leading sources of air pollution. Emissions from vehicles contain Oxides of Nitrogen (NO<sub>x</sub>) and Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) which are prime ingredients in the formation of Ozone and Particulate Matter (PM).

The CO<sub>2</sub> emissions associated with idling accounts for roughly 1.6 percent of the total U.S. greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

If we were able to cut idling time in half in the U.S. through education and outreach, the result would be preventing between 7 and 26 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub> from entering the atmosphere each year.

Stopping unnecessary idling improves air quality and the respiratory and cardiovascular health of people in our communities, particularly among children.

Children, whose lungs are still developing, breathe more rapidly and inhale more pollutants per pound of body weight than adults. Children's asthma symptoms increase as a result of car exhaust. Asthma is the third leading cause of hospitalization for children under the age of 15. Asthma is also the most common chronic illness in children and the cause of most school absences.

While sitting in an idling vehicle, drivers are exposed to higher levels of vehicle pollution than when the vehicle is in motion because exhaust enters the cabin. Exposure to most vehicle exhaust is much higher inside vehicles than at the roadside.

## ***IDLING TIPS***

- You can reduce idling by using remote starters wisely. Don't turn your vehicle on before you are ready to leave.
- You can reduce idling by turning off your vehicle as soon as you park in a ski area lot. The car will stay warm enough while you get geared up.
- Don't idle while waiting in drop off and pick up areas.
- Park your car and put those legs to work rather than sitting in drive-thrus!