



LA PLATA COUNTY
POLICY MANUAL

Section: V. County Properties and Facilities

Approved:

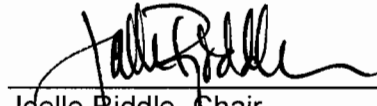
Policy No. V.9

Originating Dept.: Fleet Management

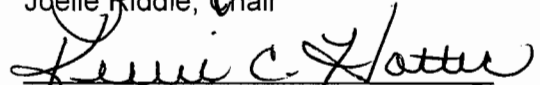
Subject: Engine Idling Policy

Effective Date: July 29, 2008

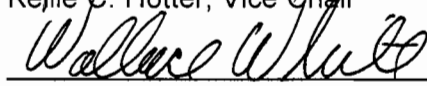
Replaces: "New Policy"



Joelle Riddle, Chair



Kellie C. Hotter, Vice Chair



Wallace "Wally" White, Commissioner

- I. Purpose:** The La Plata County Fleet Management Division is requesting the County to adopt an Engine Idling Policy to reduce fuel consumption and comply with the United States Environmental Protection Agency request to help reduce emissions.
- A. The La Plata County Fleet Division is concerned with ever-rising fuel prices, budget constraints and the affect this may have on future services.
 - B. La Plata County is also concerned with vehicle exhaust from both on and off road vehicles. Vehicle exhaust is a substantial contributor to carbon monoxide, toxic air contaminants and green house gases.
 - C. A study of idling exhaust emissions conducted by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA420-R-02-025, October 2002) indicates that the typical 1980s – 2001 model year truck operating on diesel fuel emits 144 grams per hour of nitrogen oxide, 8224 grams per hour of carbon dioxide and consumes 0.82 gallons of fuel per hour while idling.
 - D. Referenced study also concludes that engine wear is greater at prolonged idle than during normal operation and that turning off and starting an engine uses less fuel than letting the engine run for thirty seconds.
 - E. La Plata County employees can play an important role in improving air quality and reducing fuel consumption by limiting the amount of time vehicle engines are allowed to idle within its jurisdiction.
 - F. Under this Policy, an idling limitation of 5 minutes will be established by La Plata County to discourage the prolonged idling of local government vehicle engines.

II. Policy Statement: The La Plata County Fleet Division is concerned with ever rising fuel costs and air quality in our local environment. This Idling policy is intended to assist in reducing fuel cost, consumption, improve air quality and reduce La Plata County's overall carbon foot print.

III Definitions:

"Driver" means any person who drives, operates, or is in actual physical control of a vehicle.

"Emergency" means a sudden, urgent, usually unforeseen, occurrence.

"Equipment Operator" means any person who is in actual physical control of a piece of off-road equipment.

"Gross Vehicle Weight Rating" means the weight specified by the manufacturer as the loaded weight of a single vehicle.

"Heavy-Duty Vehicle" means any on-road motor vehicle with a manufacturer's gross vehicle weight rating greater than 14,000 pounds.

"Idling" means the engine is running while the vehicle is stationary or the piece of off-road equipment is not performing work.

"Medium-Duty Vehicle" means any on-road motor vehicle with a manufacturer's gross vehicle weight rating of 6,001 – 14,000 pounds.

"Official Traffic Control Device" means any sign, signal, marking or device placed or erected by authority of a public body or official having jurisdiction, for the purpose of regulating, warning or guiding traffic, but does not include islands, curbs, traffic barriers, speed humps, or other roadway design features.

"Off-Road Equipment" means all non-road equipment with a horsepower rating of 50 or more.

"Vehicle" means any on-road, self-propelled vehicle that is required to be registered and have a license plate by the Department of Motor Vehicles.

IV Applicability: This Policy applies to the operation of all La Plata County vehicles regardless of gross vehicle weight rating, all heavy-duty vehicles regardless of fuel being used, all off-road diesel-powered equipment regardless of horsepower rating and all off-road equipment regardless of fuel being used, except as provided in the Exemptions area below.

V Compliance: All Department Heads and Elected Officials are responsible to ensure compliance with this policy.

VI General Provisions:

A driver of a vehicle:

- A. Must turn off the engine upon stopping at a destination.
- B. Must not cause or allow an engine to idle at any location for more than 5 consecutive minutes.
- C. An equipment operator of an off-road piece of equipment not identified in (1) above must not cause or allow an off-road piece of equipment to idle at any location for more than 5 consecutive minutes.
- D. Human Resources will ensure that vehicle drivers and equipment operators, upon employment, are informed of the requirements of this policy. Fleet management will do an annual follow up with county employees thereafter.

VII EXEMPTIONS

This Policy does not apply to a vehicle or piece of equipment in which:

- A. Idling is necessary while stopped.
- B. It is being used as an official traffic control device or signal.
- C. It is in traffic conditions over which a driver has no control, including, but not limited to: stopped in a line of traffic, stopped at a railroad crossing or stopped at a construction zone; or
- D. at the direction of a policeman or other official traffic controller.
- E. Idling is necessary for testing, maintenance, repair or diagnostic purposes.
- F. 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.
- G. The vehicle is not expected to restart due to mechanical or electrical problems.
- H. Idling the engine is required to power auxiliary equipment other than a heater or air conditioner, e.g. hoist, lift, computers, safety lighting.
- I. Idling is necessary to operate defrosters, heaters, air conditioners or other equipment to prevent a safety or health emergency, (such as snowplows) but not solely for the comfort of the driver or passengers.
- J. Idling is necessary to cool down a turbo-charged heavy-duty vehicle in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendation.