

## **8.7 Vehicle Idling Policy**

### Purpose/Scope

Unnecessary combustion engine idling impacts air quality and respiratory health, increases operational costs, and wastes vehicle fuel. The City has determined that unnecessary idling of the City's fleet can waste approximately one gallon of fuel per hour for diesel vehicles and three quarters of a gallon of fuel per hour for automobiles. In addition, vehicle idling can result in wear and tear on engines and cause premature corrosion damage to exhaust piping and mufflers. This policy has been developed in an effort to improve air quality and obtain savings in fuel and operating costs, as well as operating in an effective and efficient manner.

This policy shall be enforced by all supervisors and failure to adhere to the policy shall be grounds for disciplinary action.

### Policy

It is the policy of the City of Marshall that City owned vehicles are not to be left running when they are unattended, nor shall they be left idling while parked.

A driver of a City of Marshall vehicle must:

1. Turn off the engine upon stopping at a destination and/or exiting the vehicle.
2. Not allow an engine to idle at any location for more than five minutes.

An operator of an off-road piece of equipment must:

1. Turn off the engine when the attendant is on break or lunch.
2. Not allow an engine to idle at any location for more than five minutes.

Idling is unnecessary combustion engine idling impacts air quality and respiratory health, increases operational costs, and wastes vehicle fuel. Idling is not permitted solely for the comfort of the driver or passengers (see Exception 4 below), or in situations where the vehicle is in its close proximity to its assigned indoor parking space.

Exceptions to this policy include the following:

1. Necessary for an official traffic control device or signal or traffic conditions such as stopped in a line traffic, at a railroad crossing, at a construction zone, or at the direction of a police officer;
2. Necessary for accomplishing work for which the vehicle operates a lift, hoist, crane, drill, pump, excavating, pipe cleaning or televising equipment;
3. Required for vehicle inspection, maintenance, testing, or repair;
4. Occupants' health, safety, welfare, or the vehicle has equipment that is temperature sensitive and would be compromised if the vehicle were not maintained at an adequate temperature;
5. Necessary to remove ice and snow and defrost windows enabling the vehicle to be driven safely;
6. Necessary for providing public safety and/or emergency medical services.
7. During winter weather conditions (below 0 degrees or during heavy snowfall), the City Administrator or Designee may suspend this policy temporarily to permit vehicles to be left idling to maintain a state of responsiveness and/or to ensure the safety of employees operating them.