Purpose

The purpose of the Idle Reduction Policy is to reduce vehicle and equipment idle time at the Utah Department of Transportation (Department) according to Executive Order of the Governor (EO/005/2012).

Motor vehicles that are allowed to idle unnecessarily waste fuel and therefore money. Unnecessary idling also releases harmful pollutants that contribute to poor air quality. The Department will conserve fuel and money, reduce air pollution, and serve as a role model for environmental stewardship to other area governments, local businesses, and the public by adopting an Idle Reduction Policy for Department owned or leased vehicles and equipment.

Policy

All Department gasoline and diesel powered vehicles and equipment, regardless of size, will idle only as necessary to perform the duties of the employee’s position or the essential functions of the equipment.

A driver of a Department vehicle or an operator of an off road piece of equipment must turn off the engine when arriving at a destination and must not cause or allow an engine to idle at any location for more than 30 seconds for a gasoline engine or three to five minutes, as recommended by the manufacturer to cool down, for a diesel engine.

The following circumstances are considered necessary reasons for an idle situation to occur:

1. A period not to exceed three to five minutes or as recommended by the manufacturer to cool down a turbo-charged, heavy-duty vehicle before turning the engine off.

2. Stopped for an official traffic control device or for traffic conditions over which the driver has no control including emergency situations.

3. To ascertain that the vehicle or equipment is in safe operating condition as part of the daily vehicle inspection or as otherwise needed.

4. For testing, servicing, repairing or diagnostic purposes.

5. To accomplish work for which the vehicle or equipment was designed other than transporting goods.
6. To operate a lift or other power take-off driven piece of equipment designed for use with the vehicle.

7. To operate defrosters, heaters, air conditioners, or other equipment when weather conditions are extreme to prevent a safety or health emergency but not solely for the comfort of the driver or passengers as these conditions could compromise the driver or passenger’s health and safety.

8. Vehicles engaged in the delivery or acceptance of goods, wares, or merchandise for which engine assisted power is necessary and substitute alternate means cannot be made available.