



VEHICLE IDLING POLICY

Directive: 7-104

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I. PURPOSE

To establish policy and procedures governing the use of Department of General Services Maryland Capitol Police (DGS-MCP) vehicles to ensure maximum fuel efficiency.

II. BACKGROUND

Vehicle idling gets zero miles per gallon; unnecessary idling wastes fuel and pollutes. Running an engine at low speed (idling) also causes twice the wear on internal parts compared to driving at regular speeds. The break-even point for shutting off and restarting gasoline engines or leaving it to idle is 30 seconds from the point of view from both emissions and fuel consumption. Idling of vehicles consumes approximately 17% of the fuel that a vehicle has on board.

III. POLICY

Effective immediately, unless exempted in the following section, no police vehicle is to be idled in a non-emergency situation. The operator of the vehicle is to turn-off the unit while at a fixed position.

The following situations will allow idling, as needed:

1. Police vehicles at crime scenes where lights, and/or other emergency equipment are needed to accomplish the mission.
2. Police vehicles working traffic enforcement details.
3. Inclement weather situations and with supervisor approval the use of the vehicles heater-defroster or air conditioner for the officers.
 - a. The outside temperature is below 32 degrees the heater/defroster may be used for 15 minutes maximum per hour.
 - b. The outside temperature is between 32 degrees and 50 degrees the heater/defroster may be used for 5 minutes per hour.
 - c. The outside temperature exceeds 90 degrees the air conditioner may be used for 15 minutes per hour.

Officers are encouraged to take advantage of fix positions that would not only provide a law enforcement presence but provide shade in the summer and sunshine in the winter.

Operators of police vehicles and Supervisors will be judicious in the idling of units at an emergency