

An Environmental Work Practice is a set of positive guidelines or "Do's and Don'ts" on how to control an aspect of the services, activities, or products of Yukon Energy that may have a negative effect on the environment.

## **VEHICLE IDLING**

### **EMS-EWP-001**

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#### **1.0 Introduction**

##### ***1.1 Purpose***

The purpose of the **Environmental Work Practice** for **Idling** is to outline the steps to reduce vehicle (and other equipment) emissions and gas/diesel wastage from unnecessary idling on YEC sites and during YEC operations. Idling wastes fuel and emits gases and particulates that are harmful to the environment and human health.

##### ***1.2 Requirements***

Personnel using Yukon Energy's vehicles or contractors using contractor owned vehicles are required to **limit idling** when appropriate.

During winter months, it is reasonable to idle a vehicle when safety is a concern in a remote location during low temperatures. In non-remote locations, and where workers can access a warming area, excessive idling for the purpose of a warm interior should be avoided by wearing appropriately warm clothing. Plugging in the vehicle can allow for the engine to warm quicker.

#### **How to warm up your vehicle**

- At temperatures between 0 and -10 degrees idling is not needed, unless your windshield cannot be cleared with scraping alone.
- -10 to -25 degrees, warm the engine for 5-10 minutes or until frost is removed from your windows. If your defroster is not working efficiently, scrape your windows and idle no more than 10 minutes.
- At temperatures below -25 Celsius, your idling time may increase to 15 minutes. A general rule of thumb is once you have heat coming into your vehicle your engine is ready to drive.
- To idle longer than this may cause damage to your engine.
- Make sure that windows are free from snow and properly defrosted before driving away.
- Accelerate and drive slowly for the first few kilometers until other components on your vehicle warm up.

- Avoid using a remote car starter during warmer weather (above -10 Celsius).
- Having a block heater, oil pan heater and a battery blanket ensures that the fluids in your vehicle are ready to go when you are and will reduce the need for idling.
- Installing a power saver cord or block heater timer to give power to your block heater only when needed will save up to 60 percent of vehicle plug-in costs.
- Use a timer to provide electricity to your block heater 2 hours before you drive instead of overnight or during the entire work day.

### **Idling Facts**

- More than 10 seconds of idling uses more fuel and produces more CO<sub>2</sub> than turning off your engine and restarting it.
- If you idle for more than 5-10 minutes in order to defrost your windshield you may be doing more harm than good to your engine.
  - An idling engine isn't operating at its peak temperature, which means that fuel doesn't undergo complete combustion. This leaves fuel residues that can condense on cylinder walls, where they can contaminate oil and damage parts of the engine.
- Idling warms only the engine - not the wheel bearings, steering, suspension, transmission or tires. These parts also need to be warmed up, and the only way to do that is to drive the vehicle.