

Mendon On-Road Vehicle Idling Policy

Fuel costs, health and air quality concerns, and common sense make it appropriate to limit vehicle idling to only that which is absolutely necessary to meet Mendon's mission. Mendon is committed to implementing practices that will reduce the adverse impacts of unnecessary vehicle idling. Effectively immediately, Mendon vehicles should not be left idling while parked, attended or unattended, for more than five (5) consecutive minutes within any 60 minute period unless one or more of the following circumstances apply:

1. The unit is forced to remain motionless due to traffic conditions over which the operator has no control;
2. The unit is involved in valid law enforcement activities;
3. The unit is in the process of being maintained, repaired, or tested, and those activities require idling;
4. The unit is providing auxiliary power to another piece of equipment;
It should be noted that the demands of radio monitoring and strobe light operation are generally modest and often overestimated. That equipment should be operated on battery power to the extent practical. Good judgment should be employed to balance the need to provide power to this equipment while limiting idling to a minimum.
5. Extreme weather operation as defined below:
 - a. Between 0°F (-18°C) and 20°F (-7°C), the idle time is limited to 15 consecutive minutes within any 60 minute period;
 - b. Below 0°F (-18°C), there is no time restriction on idling, provided no nuisance is thereby created;
 - c. Hot weather does not justify idling to operate an air-conditioning system, except in the case of an immediate safety concern.

A vehicle operating inside a garage represents an immediate and real health concern, even with bay doors open. Such idling shall be kept to an absolute minimum. Engines shall be run only as necessary to safely pull a vehicle into or out of a garage bay, including the time necessary to build adequate air pressure for brake systems if appropriate. If a garage is equipped with a vehicle exhaust ventilation system, that system should be connected to a vehicle as soon as possible.

Mendon employees shall operate all gasoline and diesel vehicles and equipment in compliance with this policy. Employees not abiding by the policy may be subject to disciplinary action.

Adopted by the Mendon Selectboard March 28, 2011