Anti-Idling Laws & Regulations in Philadelphia

Partnership between PPA and AMS

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Introduction

- Philadelphia Diesel Particulate Problem
- Health Effects of Diesel Particulate
- Utilize other City Resources - Can the Parking Authority Help
Diesel Particulate

Local Statistics

- Health impacts from diesel particulate are worst in metropolitan areas
- Philadelphia: 4th in the nation for deaths attributed to diesel particulate
- 1999 statistics for Philadelphia:
  - 727 deaths
  - 69 cancer deaths
  - 990 heart attacks

Source: Clean Air Task Force, “Diesel and Health in America: The Lingering Threat” www.catf.us
Diesel Particulate

- National Statistics
  - 21,000 people die prematurely each year due to particulate matter pollution from diesels
  - This includes almost 3,000 early deaths from lung cancer
  - Diesel exhaust poses a cancer risk that is 7.5 times higher than the combined total cancer risk from all other toxics
Health Effects

- What is diesel exhaust?
  - Products of incomplete combustion
    - Particulates
    - Nitrogen Oxides
    - Carbon Monoxide
    - Others
Health Effects

Why is diesel exhaust unhealthful to breathe?
- Increased Cancer Risk
- Asthma Aggravation
- Immune System Effects
- Reproductive, Developmental, and Endocrine Effects
- Nervous System Effects

Children and Seniors are most at risk
Health Effects

Impact of 100 idling trucks and buses:

In 1 hour:
- 2.7 lb of VOCs
- 20.8 lb of CO
- 12.4 lb of NOx
- 0.56 lb of PM10

8 hrs/day, 365 days/yr:
- 4.05 tons of VOC
- 30.4 tons of CO
- 18.2 tons of NOx
- 0.8 tons of PM10

Effective enforcement of existing laws will result in significant air pollution reductions.
Enforcement

- Anti-Idling Regulations
  - Philadelphia Traffic Code Section 12-1127
  - Air Management Regulation IX Section III
Traffic Code [12-1127]

- Ambient temperature greater than 20° F: Idle time limit = 3 minutes

- Exemptions
  - Emergency or public utility vehicles performing work
  - Public road repair vehicles
  - Vehicles being serviced, if idling is part of service
  - Vehicles that must idle to operate mechanical equipment other than air conditioners
  - Vehicles in traffic
Traffic Code

- At a terminal
- Ambient temp greater than 40° F: Idle time limit = 5 minutes
- [12-1127(2)(b)]
Air Management

- Temp less than 32° F: Idle time limit = 5 minutes
- Temp less than 20° F: Idle time limit = 20 minutes
- For buses with air conditioning and non-openable windows, Temp greater than 75° F: Idle time limit = 20 minutes
Enforcement - Combine Resources

- Air Management inspectors issue Air Violation
- Parking Authority issues traffic tickets

- $100 per violation
“To know that even one life has breathed easier because you have lived - this is to have succeeded.”

-Ralph Waldo Emerson