

Options for Cities to Mitigate Heavy-duty Vehicle Idling

The State of California has several regulations to stop unnecessary idling of heavy-duty commercial diesel vehicles. The first is the Commercial Vehicle Idling Regulation codified in Title 13 of the California Code of Regulations (CCR) under section 2485. This regulation limits idling of diesel vehicles above 10,000 pounds gross vehicle rated weight to 5 minutes regardless of their location anywhere in the State. The second regulation is the School Bus Idling Regulation, also codified under Title 13 of the CCR under section 2480. Drivers of school buses and commercial vehicles of all fuel types must shut their vehicle's engine off immediately upon arriving at a school, and depart within 30 seconds of starting them up. When beyond 100 feet from a school, those vehicles are limited to 5 minutes of idling time. Lastly, off-road vehicles, such as construction vehicles, also have a 5 minute idling limit. The idling restriction for this equipment is part of the State's Regulation for In-Use Off-Road Diesel-Fueled Fleets under Title 13 CCR, section 2449.

Cities have options to address unnecessary and unwanted heavy-duty vehicle idling in their community.

- 1) **Install "No Idling" Signage:** ARB can provide "No Idling" signs if requested. These signs have been approved by Caltrans and can be erected on public streets within the city's jurisdiction, or on private property with permission of the property owner or lessee. Signs are most effective when placed near schools, ports, rail yards, bus yards, hospitals, facilities for the elderly, and where trucks congregate in residential areas.
- 2) **Conduct Outreach:** Outreach is an effective way to induce compliance and can be done in a variety of ways. Fliers or pamphlets to educate the public or given to businesses who bring high numbers of trucks to their locations can be utilized, as well as talks at local association meetings, use of newspaper articles or other local media. Encouraging the public to report violations helps identify target locations for outreach and enforcement. ARB can help your community by providing outreach materials and helping to organize outreach efforts.
- 3) **Call the Air Resources Board for Enforcement:** If you see idling vehicles in your area, contact ARB. Information can be submitted through ARB's complaint system network via phone or e-mail. ARB staff will contact idling parties to inform them of the regulation and complaint, and if further action is warranted, ARB inspectors will visit the location where idling occurs and issue citations to noncompliant vehicles. To report idling, you may call 1-800-END-SMOG (1-800-363-7664) or go to ARB's main web page at www.arb.ca.gov and click on the "Report Air Pollution" link. This will lead to a reporting form. Please be

prepared to include the vehicle's identification information, such as the front license plate and DOT numbers, and include the date and location where the idling was observed.

- 4) **Enforce the Law:** A city's police department can issue citations using ARB's citation form, which can then be processed by ARB staff. Penalty money may be split between the two agencies under a Memo of Understanding or Interagency Agreement. ARB can provide classroom and/or field training to familiarize police with procedures for ARB idling citations.
- 5) **Adopt an Ordinance:** Cities may adopt their own ordinances to control heavy-duty vehicle idling and can designate enforcement authority to their own police officers or other code enforcement staff. The State's idling regulations can be used as model ordinances and ARB can provide classroom or hands-on training to the city's enforcement personnel.
- 6) **Call Your Local Air Pollution Control District for Assistance:** A city may be able to partner with its local air district by having district inspectors target areas within the city known for high idling noncompliance.
- 7) **Address Land Use Issues:** Zoning personnel should consider idling issues during all permitting processes. Localized air pollution impacts from incompatible land use can occur when polluting sources, such as a heavily trafficked roadway, warehousing facilities, or industrial or commercial facilities, are located near a land use where sensitive individuals are found such as a school, hospital, or homes. While avoiding incompatible land uses can be a challenge, project design and informed zoning and permitting decisions can help avoid and/or resolve conflicts between residents and businesses. More information is available at <http://www.arb.ca.gov/ch/handbook.pdf>.

If your city would like to partner with the ARB, or would like assistance with any of the items above, please contact Michelle Shultz Wood at (626) 459-4338.