

**FACT SHEET**

ANTI-IDLING ORDINANCES IN THE ALAMO REGION

**Why is there a need for anti-idling ordinances in the Alamo region?**

The San Antonio area experiences periods each year when air pollution reaches unhealthy levels. This puts the region at risk of violating federal air pollution rules, a risk that could impact businesses and governments by requiring costly solutions. Air pollution also impacts health and medical costs.

Collectively, the cars, trucks and buses using our roadways represent one of the largest sources of air pollution in our region. One of the easiest solutions to reducing vehicle-related pollution is as simple as turning off a vehicle’s engine and avoiding unnecessary idling.

**Benefits of reducing engine idling**

Idling is the continuous operation of an engine in working mode when the engine is not propelling the vehicle and there is no load on the engine. Idling cannot be completely eliminated, but much of it is unnecessary and may cost companies and drivers hundreds or thousands of dollars a year.

**Idling = 0 miles per gallon**

EPA estimates that one heavy-duty truck burns as much as 1,830 gallons of fuel annually due to unnecessary idling. Even with low fuel prices ($1.50/gallon), eliminating unnecessary idling would save more than $2,700 per year. In addition, reducing idling time also decreases engine wear.

Heavy-duty vehicles contribute roughly a third of the pollutants from the transportation sector, but comprise only 2 percent of the total number of vehicles on the roadways. Idling emissions are particularly high. A typical long-haul truck generates nearly 50 times more smog-forming emissions while idling than the average passenger car. So the health of truck operators and the greater community benefit from limiting unnecessary heavy-duty engine idling.

**Anti-Idling Ordinance**

The anti-idling ordinance restricts heavy-duty vehicles with a gross vehicle weight of > 14,000 pounds from idling for more than five minutes within the City of San Antonio and Bexar County. While certain vehicles are excluded regardless of weight (such as emergency vehicles), most vehicle operators will need to adhere to idling restrictions. Vehicles that are subject to the anti-idling ordinance include:

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| Beverage Trucks | Utility Trucks | Stake Trucks | Bucket Trucks |
| Home Fuel Trucks | Step Vans | Delivery Trucks | Inner-City Tour Buses |
| Tanker Trucks | Dump Trucks | Large Motor Homes | Tow Trucks |
| Flat-Bed Trucks | Rack Trucks | Tractor-Trailer Rigs | Fuel Trucks |
| School & Transit Buses | Garbage Trucks | Furniture Trucks | Service Body Trucks |

For more information about anti-idling ordinances in the Alamo region, contact Nic Jones at (210) 918-1299 or njones@aacog.com.



