



NH Department of Environmental Services Reminds Drivers About Idling

DES reminds school bus drivers about the benefits of limiting idling whenever possible. By keeping your engines off, you are protecting yourself and the students from the harmful effects of diesel exhaust fumes.

DES recently sent out letters to all transportation providers asking them to take the Pledge once again to implement anti-idling practices with their drivers. Pledges are due back by January 31st. Return your pledge if you haven't already done so to be included on the 2009 listing of participating school bus providers.

No-Idling Guidelines for Fleet Managers and Bus Drivers:

-All drivers should turn off engines as soon as they arrive in the school yard. PLEASE - do not allow engines to idle while discharging or waiting for passengers.

-During morning start-up, buses should idle no longer than necessary to bring them to proper operating temperature and in colder weather to defrost all windows. In colder months, block heaters and other heating devices can shorten warm-up time and avoid starting difficulties.

-In colder months, ask schools to provide a space inside where bus drivers who arrive early can wait. During athletic events, drivers should use indoor space to stay warm instead of remaining on the bus.

-When idling is necessary to run the engine for safety equipment or passenger comfort, drivers should limit idling time, based on outside air temperature, according to state regulations Env-A 1100 as follows:

Above 32 degrees F: Maximum of 5 minutes

Between minus 10 degrees and 32 degrees F: Maximum of 15 minutes.

Below minus 10 degrees F: no limit.

-Cold weather can be a concern so drivers should use common sense and good judgment when taking steps to reduce idling during winter months. If your bus is warmed up, it can safely be turned off while you are discharging and/or waiting for passengers.

Questions about DES anti-idling initiatives to reduce idling should be directed to Kathy Brockett, DES Education/Outreach Program, 271-6284 or via email kbrockett@des.state.nh.us