



## **Sustainability Guideline - 201801**

### **No Vehicle Idling**

#### Guideline Statement

#### **Guideline**

UT Dallas vehicle operators are prohibited from idling their vehicle of operation on university controlled property for more than five (5) minutes at any given time. All personnel whom operate motorized vehicles on-campus should be aware of this guideline.

#### **Rationale**

UT Dallas is committed to reducing its environmental footprint. This guideline is oriented toward improving the outdoor air quality and reducing exhaust emissions that may pose a risk to the health of the campus community.

In accordance to the City of Richardson, unnecessary idling introduces harmful pollutants into the air and increases fuel consumption. Therefore, the city has created an ordinance to regulate large vehicle idling within the city. This ordinance was inspired by the Texas Clean Air Act (CAA) that states no vehicle shall be allowed to idle for more than five (5) consecutive minutes when the motor vehicle is not in motion. The CAA and City of Richardson ordinances do not pertain to UT Dallas. This is a UT Dallas initiative that will help vehicle operators reduce exhaust emissions.

[Air North Texas](#) is a regional public awareness campaign and partnership that seeks to improve air quality in North Texas. The campaign was formed by the North Central Texas Council of Governments with support of a task force made up of government agencies, nonprofit organizations, transportation authorities and others. Air North Texas promotes Clean Air Action Days and provides optional strategies for organizational entities and individuals to partake in to help support the DFW air quality.

#### **Scope**

This guideline applies to vehicle operators at the university main campus and other university-owned facilities in the Dallas Metroplex.

#### **Definition**

Idling refers to the running of a vehicle engine while not in motion or in operation. This includes small, large and grounds maintenance vehicles.

#### **Implementation**

It is the responsibility of the department supervisor, operations manager, and/or any other supervisor of vehicle operators to enforce this guideline and raise awareness.

*Key points include the below.*

- When the vehicle is not in use, turn off the ignition.
- No vehicle idling near air vents.
- Ensure all vehicles receive maintenance including tire inflation and regular air filter changes.
- Promote [Clean Air Action Days](#).
- Enforce no smoking in UT Dallas vehicles.
- Enforce this guideline.



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*Are there exceptions to this guideline?*

Yes. There are exceptions to this guideline. Please see below.

- If the vehicle in operation is being used for emergency and medical services.
- If the vehicle in operation is being serviced or inspected.
- If the vehicle in operation is being used for law enforcement purposes.
- If the vehicle in operation is idling to defrost a windshield.

### **Social, Economic and Environmental Impacts**

The University of Texas at Dallas strives to make a positive impact to support the economic diversity and prosperity within the State of Texas. Protecting the health of Texans creates a positive and more productive environment while at the same time creating opportunities to reduce wasteful spending through the adoption of simplistic, yet sustainable actions.

For any questions, please contact the Office of Sustainability at (972) 883-6515.