

Use of Parks and Protected Lands

Visitor Use

Motorized vehicle/vessel idling

Purpose

This policy prohibits the unnecessary idling of motorized vehicles and vessels in provincial parks, conservancies, protected areas and recreation areas.

Background

BC Parks is committed to reducing unnecessary vehicle, vessel and equipment idling as a means of reducing air pollution, greenhouse gas emissions and fuel consumption. Making provincial protected areas “Idle Free Zones” will help to build awareness about the economic, environmental and health costs of idling.

Scope

This policy applies to all campgrounds, day-use sites, and marine protected areas.

Park Rangers, Park Facility Operators, police, fire, ambulance and/or other emergency motorized vehicles or vessels performing emergency activities are exempt from this policy. Equipment involved in on-site construction is also exempt.

Definitions

“**idle**” or “**idling**” means the operation of a motorized vehicle/vessel or equipment while they are not in motion and not being used to operate auxiliary equipment that is essential to the function of the motorized vehicle/vessel or equipment;

“**motorized vehicle/vessel**” means a vehicle or vessel which is self-propelled by an internal combustion engine, but does not include a motorized wheelchair.

Policy

Idling of motorized vehicles/vessels is not permitted for more than one consecutive minute, notwithstanding the following exceptions:

- (i) diesel fuelled motor vehicles/equipment may idle for up to five minutes during their initial warm-up period; and

- (ii) motorized vehicles/vessels may idle for the purposes of defogging, defrosting or de-icing windows. Idling must end when fog, frost or ice conditions have been eliminated.
- (iii) During the winter season with below zero temperatures and/or blizzard conditions, and during summer periods of extreme heat, extended idling periods may be necessary for the well being of the operator and passengers.