



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Thursday, May 1, 2008



Enforcement of City's "No Idling" Ordinance Goes into Effect Today as Ozone Season Officially Begins in Dallas

(May 1, 2008)—Today marks the first day vehicles weighing over 14,000 pounds will be ticketed for breaking the City of Dallas' Idling Ordinance. The ordinance prohibits these large vehicles from idling for over five minutes within the Dallas city limits. Warnings have been issued for the past month; ticketing begins today.

The law will be enforced during the State of Texas' designated Ozone Season, April 1st–October 31st of each year. The purpose of the idling ordinance is to help improve air quality in the city of Dallas.

EFFECTS OF IDLING ON AIR AND PUBLIC HEALTH

- Idling from heavy duty trucks releases diesel which contains harmful airborne contaminants.
- Nearly half of North Texas' air pollution comes from on-road mobile sources (cars, trucks, etc)
- Diesel emissions from heavy duty trucks and buses are a major concern since they comprise approximately 50% of NOx emissions (harmful pollutant causing ozone) for on-road sources in our region.
- Diesel emissions from motor vehicles contribute to health problems such as premature death, cancer, heart attacks, cardiovascular disease, emphysema, and asthma.

BACKGROUND

In an effort to address North Texas' air quality problems, the Dallas City Council passed this ordinance last May (2007). For the past several months, an extensive outreach and educational campaign has been going on to inform truck drivers, trucking companies, truck stops, warehouses, local and national trucking associations and unions, as well as schools that provide training and licenses to truck drivers, of this change. New signage is posted at the seven local truck stops in the city of Dallas, and large transportation facilities and delivery operations including moving companies and companies with large distribution centers.

More information on the City of Dallas' Idling Ordinance can also be found on GreenDallas' Air Quality and Idling webpage www.greendallas.net/air_quality/engineoff.html

ABOUT GREEN DALLAS

The City of Dallas' Green Dallas initiative is aimed at environmental responsibility and encourages both public and private sector involvement. To find out more about how the City of Dallas is an environmental leader and what residents can do to 'build a greener Dallas,' visit the City's green Web site www.GreenDallas.net

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