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After Hours Emergencies

Call **1-877-454-4204** (toll-free)
Your call will be answered through
the Department of Energy and
Environmental Protection Dispatch
Office, which will assist you.

Online

Go to:
<http://das.ct.gov> and click on **FLEET
OPERATIONS** for additional infor-
mation on fueling locations, acci-
dent forms and mileage reports.

How Long Does it Take to Warm Up?



We saw a story a couple of weeks back that ran in the Chicago Tribune, by Chris Mooney, a Washington Post reporter, and thought that it would be worth sharing in a condensed form in *Inroads*. The article pertains to winter warm-ups for vehicles. It highlights that “the way we always did it” isn’t necessarily the best way to do it going forward. Here it is:

We’ve all heard the idea: In winter, your car needs a little time to warm up before you can drive it. But it turns out that this idea of idling your car during the winter is just wrong. Like many misconceptions, the idea behind winter car idling begins with a kernel of truth. Cars do get worse fuel economy when it’s really cold out – they are at least 12 percent less fuel efficient, according to the Environmental Protection Agency and Energy Department. And it does take longer for the engine to warm up and reach optimal driving temperature in cold weather.

But older cars which relied on carburetors as a crucial engine component did need to warm up to work well. During the 1980s and into the early

1990s the auto industry did away with carburetors in favor of fuel injection, which uses sensors to supply fuel and get the right fuel and air mix. This makes the problem of warming up before driving irrelevant, because the sensors monitor and adjust to temperature conditions.

With today’s cars, idling in winter, therefore, has no benefit. Auto experts today say you should warm up the car no more than 30 seconds before you start driving in the winter. “The engine will warm up faster being driven”, the EPA and Energy Department explain. So idling does nothing for your vehicle, but it does have several big (and avoidable) costs: Wasting fuel, and giving off greenhouse gas emissions and other types of pollution.

To show this, Natural Resources Canada ran an idling experiment, freezing three cars to minus 18 degrees Celsius and then driving each one the same distance. “The test results showed that with a 5-minute warm-up total fuel consumption

increased by 7 to 14 percent and with a ten minute warm-up total fuel consumption increased by 12 to 19 percent,” the agency reported.

A 2009 study in energy policy tried to calculate the consequences of excessive idling. They estimated that \$5.9 billion per year is wasted (based on fuel cost in 2008). The saved emissions would be “larger than the emissions from the soda ash, aluminum and limestone industries combined.”

For the final word, let’s turn to the late Tom Magliozzi, the unforgettable co-host of NPRs “Car Talk.” As he put it to a Boston listener named Lisa, who had asked about her boyfriend’s conviction that you need to idle up to ten minutes in winter: “Dear Lisa’s Boyfriend: You have your head so far up your tailpipe on this one, it may be coming out of your air intake.”

Vehicle Titles Part II

Last month we shared information from Veronica Coty of DAS Surplus regarding obtaining vehicle titles for any agency-owned vehicles you may have. She has since forwarded the following update:

Due to recent information received from DMV and the multitude of issues they are dealing with, we need to put a hold on converting COs for titles for existing vehicles. Once we are given the go-ahead by DMV, we will be moving forward with this process. In the meantime, we will be titling brand new vehicles. When your agency purchases a new vehicle, please contact Veronica Coty at DAS. You will need to submit the original Certificate of Origin and the original H-13 form (provided and filled out by the dealer) to Veronica and either drop it off at the surplus warehouse, or mail it to DAS Surplus, P.O. Box 290170, Wethersfield, CT 06109. Once the title comes back from DMV, Veronica or Holly will contact you to find out your preferred method of receiving the title. If you have any questions, please contact Veronica at Veronica.Coty@ct.gov.