Broward County Smoking Vehicle Program

Air Quality Program
Overview

- Smoking Vehicle Program
- Effects of Smoking Vehicles
- Regulatory Authority
- How to Report Smoking Vehicles
- Program Activity Reports
What is the Smoking Vehicle Program?

- **Program Goal**
  - To educate the public about the problems associated with smoking vehicles, and to promote the repair or removal of smoking vehicles in Broward County.

- **Process**
  - Once a violation is reported and the information is verified, the registered owner is contacted and requested to repair the vehicle.
Problems With Smoking Vehicles

- Motor vehicles account for more than 50% of the air pollution in Broward County.
- About 30% of Florida's GHG come from passenger cars and light duty trucks.
- Exhaust from motor vehicles contain air toxics.
- There is a link between air pollution and heart disease.
  - Study in L.A. found that thickening of the artery wall is correlated with outdoor airborne concentrations of the particulate matter found in automotive exhaust.
    - Study appears in the journal *published by the Public Library of Science*.
Problems with Smoking Vehicles

- Smoking vehicles generate 10 to 15 times more pollution than well-tuned vehicles.
- Smoking vehicles contribute 20 to 30% of the soot and particles in the air.
- Particulate matter can trigger asthma attacks and cause wheezing, coughing and respiratory irritation in individuals with sensitive airways. May carry toxic materials deep into the respiratory system.

Source: Bay Area Air Quality Management District
Why Does Broward County Need a Smoking Vehicle Program?

- Effective July 1, 2000, the Motor Vehicle Inspection Program was discontinued in Florida.
- The removal of this program eliminated the requirement for motor vehicle owners to pass an emissions test in order to renew their vehicle registrations.
Chapter 27, Article IV: “Air Pollution” Section 27-175(j)(1) Visible Emissions from Motor Vehicles

“No person shall operate any gasoline-powered motor vehicle which generates visible emissions from the exhaust pipe(s) for more than a continuous period of (5) five seconds.”
Chapter 27, Article IV: “Air Pollution” Section 27-175(j)(2) Visible Emissions from Motor Vehicles

“No person shall operate any diesel-powered motor vehicle which generates visible emissions from the exhaust pipe(s) for more than a continuous period of (5) five seconds while in the cruise mode or idle mode.”
Florida State Visible Emissions Statute

- Title XXIII; Chapter 316; Section 2935 establishes compliance regulations related to visible vehicle emissions.
- “No person shall operate any gasoline-powered or diesel-powered motor vehicle which generates visible emissions from the exhaust pipe(s) for more than a continuous period of (5) five seconds.”
Diesel Exemptions

Florida Statute 316.2935

- Motorcycles, mopeds, and scooters
- The regulations exempt visible emissions from diesel engines when:
  - The vehicle is accelerating or decelerating;
  - During engine “lugging” (lugging generally occurs when the vehicle is under heavy load and is struggling to accelerate).
  - Does NOT include off road vehicles
How Are Smoking Vehicles Reported?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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Definitions

- “Idle Mode” – a motor vehicle at rest with its engine running.
- “Cruise Mode” – a vehicle moving at a constant or near-constant rate of speed.
What can be reported:

- Cars
- Trucks
- Buses
- Taxi Cabs
How Are Smoking Vehicles Reported?

- Questions to ask yourself before reporting:
  - Did the visible emissions persist for 5 seconds or more?
  - Are the emissions clearly not cold-weather water vapor emissions?
  - Does the vehicle have a diesel-fuel engine?
How Are Smoking Vehicles Reported?

- All EPGMD employees and the public may submit complaints.
- Fill out a smoking vehicle violation form and return it to Enforcement, call the complaint hotline (954) 519–1499, or fill out the on-line complaint form at www.broward/pollutionprevention
- The public may submit a complaint by calling the complaint hotline or on-line
Complaint Received

General Public
- Verify Information with the DMV
  - Mail letter, voluntary compliance reply card & educational brochure
    - If card returned, track compliance

NREO
- Verify Information with the DMV
  - Generate Warning Notice. Mail with compliance reply card & brochure
    - Complied
    - Not Complied/No Response
      - Mail 10-Day Courtesy Letter
        - Complied
        - Not Complied/No Response
          - Citation
Enforcement Action

- First Violation
  - Warning Notice (30 days to repair vehicle)
- Failure to Comply Within 30 Days
  - Citation ($100 fine)
- Second Violation
  - Citation ($200 fine)
Testify

- By reporting a smoking vehicle, you must be able to testify in a hearing if an administrative hearing is requested.
- Based on having this training and knowing the ordinances.
Reply Cards

Smoking Vehicle Repair Reply Card

Citation/Warning Notice No. __________________________

Smoking Vehicle Repair Reply Card

I __________________________ certify that on ____________ (date of repair)

I took my __________________________ Florida tag number ____________

vehicle make & model) to be repaired at: __________________________ (repair facility name) __________________________ (telephone number)

Respondent Address: __________________________ City __________________________ State __________________________ Zip code

Repair Invoice number: __________________________ Repair Cost: __________________________

________________________________________

Respondent signature

Telephone: __________________________ __________________________

Please submit proof that the vehicle has been repaired. If you have any questions please contact us at 954-519-1220.

01/08 AO200524379
Other ways to comply

- Affidavits

- Visuals
  - Come to office and we look at exhaust to determine if complied or not
What's wrong with this picture?

How often do you find yourself driving behind a smoking vehicle? You roll the windows up, close the vents, and can still smell the fumes!

In an effort to alleviate this problem, the Broward County Environmental Protection Department's Air Quality Division created the Smoking Vehicle Program, a voluntary program for reporting smoking vehicles. One of the main goals of the program is to educate the general public about the effects of smoking vehicles and how we can all help resolve this problem.

Interesting facts about motor vehicles:
- Motor vehicles account for more than 50% of the air pollution in Broward County.
- There are about 1.3 million cars, trucks, buses, and other registered motor vehicles in Broward County. That equates to more than one vehicle per resident.
- The average car generates more than 400 pounds of air pollution per year.
- To 10% of the vehicles cause more than half of the air pollution generated by motor vehicles.

Smoking vehicles are bad for you:
Smoke from vehicle exhaust is made up of tiny particles that can get lodged in your lungs. Recent studies show that these small particles are a major contributor to respiratory diseases such as asthma and emphysema. Smoking vehicles can also emit pollutants that are known or suspected to cause cancer in humans.

Smoking vehicles are illegal:
- Any car, bus, or truck that generates smoke continuously from the exhaust pipe(s) for more than five seconds is in violation of the Broward County Code (Chapter 21, Section 21-176) and the Florida Statutes, Chapter 316.703.

Smoking vehicles cost you money!
County fines:
The owner of a smoking vehicle can be cited by a Natural Resource Enforcement Officer from the Broward County Environmental Protection Department. If the problem is not corrected within 30 days, fines of up to $500 may apply.

State fines:
Any law enforcement officer of the State of Florida can issue a traffic infraction to a smoking vehicle.

Out of Pocket:
A smoking vehicle can burn up your money. It will use more oil and gasoline. The longer it goes without being repaired, the more damage may be done to the engine. That means higher repair costs for you in the long run.

What can you do if your vehicle is smoking?
- Visit the Air Quality Division website at www.broward.org/air and click on the "Smoking Vehicles" button to see the common causes of vehicle engine smoke and try to identify the problem.
- Take the vehicle to a certified mechanic trained in the latest technology for emissions controls.
- Take the bus — call Broward County Transit (BCT) at 954-357-8000.
- Share rides with someone at school, work, and social events.
- Call 1-800-324-3930 to paint your pool.
- Take Tri-Rail — call 1-800-TI-RAIL.
- Bicycle, walk, or skate whenever you can.

State of Florida

How to report smoking vehicles:
The Smoking Vehicle Program encourages the public to help identify smoking vehicles. Please call the Environmental Complaint Hotline at 954-519-1499, or fill out an online complaint form 24-hours a day by visiting www.broward.org/air and click on the "Smoking Vehicles" button. We don't need your name, just the information listed below.
- The smoking vehicle's Florida registration number
- The make, model, and color of the vehicle
- The date and time the vehicle was seen
- Location and city where you saw the vehicle (i.e. 1-95 Northbound on Oakland Park Blvd., Fort Lauderdale 33309)

Report Smoking Vehicles
954-519-1499
www.broward.org/air and click on the "Smoking Vehicles" button
Program Activity Reports

Calendar Years 2002 - 2011

- Complaints Received: 3,116
- Warning Notices Issued: 1,090
- Citations Issued: 252
- Courtesy Letters Mailed: 1,448
Smoking Vehicle Statistics
Calendar Years 2003 - 2011

- Complaints
- Warning Notices
- Citations
- Courtesy Letters Mailed
Smoking Vehicle Courtesy Letters Mailed

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For additional information contact:

Broward County Air Quality Program
954-519-1260
airoutreach@broward.org