AVOID PUMPING EXHAUST FUMES INTO UAA BUILDINGS!

During the cold weather, it is important for people to avoid idling vehicles and equipment near building doors and air intakes to prevent exhaust odors from entering our buildings.

Unlike most residential buildings, most UAA buildings are well ventilated with outside air so carbon monoxide concerns are seldom a significant issue for campus buildings. However, intermittent exhaust odors are annoying to many people and to some individuals those odors can cause adverse health effects such as headaches, migraines, nausea, and even trigger asthma attacks.

Most exhaust problems are easily controlled by using the following techniques:

- Plug in vehicles (when possible) if the outside temperature drops below 20F. Little or no idling warm-up period is needed for vehicles that have been plugged-in for a few hours prior to use.
- Slowly moved cold-started vehicles away from the buildings for short warm-up periods when needed.
- Most gasoline fueled vehicles can be driven slowly after a few minutes of warm-up in cold weather until the engine reaches optimum temperature.
- To prevent interior glass frosting in a cold vehicle, drive slowly with the front side windows partially opened and the defroster on maximum until the vehicle has warmed-up.
- Dress appropriately for the conditions and don’t expect to always be in a vehicle with a warm cab. Expecting a cab to be at 70F for a short trip across campus is wasteful of fuel and contributes to air pollution. During longer trips, the cab will warm up quicker during driving rather than idling.
- Do not depend on the defroster to melt ice and snow on the outside of windows of a cold vehicle. Use and ice scraper instead. This practice is inefficient, costly, and contributes to air pollution.

Keep in mind that these tips will not always work for all equipment or under extreme conditions. Heavy diesel equipment may require extended warm-up periods so be sure that they are parked away from buildings.

Also keep in mind that Parking Services and UPD are authorized to issue $25 citations to anyone idling vehicles and equipment next to doors and air intakes. The individual operators of the vehicles and equipment are responsible for the citation and university funds cannot normally be used to pay them. At times, there may be exceptions for emergencies or special work needs as approved by supervisors or required by some operations.

If employees are comfortable with this, they should feel free to point out exhaust concerns to individual drivers and operators in a constructive manner. Supervisors are encouraged to contact Environmental Health & Safety at 786-1351, Facilities Maintenance Services at 786-6980, or the University Police Department at 786-1120 if drivers or operators are uncooperative with controlling exhaust re-entrainment into our buildings.

Please be considerate of our employees’ health and do your part to control air pollution. Thank you.