

## **IDLING TRUCKS AND BUSES ARE BAD FOR YOUR HEALTH**

Truck and bus exhaust, especially from diesel engines, is very harmful to human health. Unnecessary idling increases these dangers.

☞ The United States Environmental Protection Agency has identified 21 chemicals in truck and bus exhaust that are known or suspected to cause cancer or other serious health effects. These include chemicals such as benzene, formaldehyde, acetaldehyde and 1,3 butadiene.

☞ Emissions from trucks and buses also contain other pollutants that have been linked to respiratory diseases and other serious health effects. These pollutants include:

- particulate matter – both black soot you can see and tiny, invisible particles a fraction of the width of a human hair that can lodge deep in your lungs;
- nitrogen oxides; and
- carbon monoxide.

☞ The pollutants in truck and bus exhaust cause or trigger many adverse health effects, including:

- lung cancer;
- cardiovascular disease;
- asthma attacks;
- chronic bronchitis;
- decreased lung function;
- allergies;
- impaired immune system function; and
- shortness of breath.

These adverse health effects can lead to increased hospital admissions, increased emergency room visits, school absences, work loss and restricted activity. Children, the elderly, and people with respiratory problems are particularly vulnerable. These health effects also increase our health care costs.



## **IDLING TRUCKS AND BUSES ARE BAD FOR THE ENVIRONMENT**

☞ Emissions from trucks and buses damage New York's environment. The damage includes:

- haze and smog;
- damage to cultural treasures such as monuments and historic structures;
- reduced crop yields and forest productivity;
- fewer fish in lakes and streams, from acid rain; and
- algae blooms and oxygen starvation from nitrogen fallout in coastal waters such as Long Island Sound.

### **EXCESSIVE IDLING OF TRUCKS AND BUSES IS AGAINST THE LAW**

Because of these health and environmental risks, New York State and New York City laws limit the amount of time a truck or bus may idle. Vehicle owners and operators, and in some cases people who control buildings or land, are subject to fines and legal actions for violations. All truck and bus drivers should idle as little as possible, and certainly should stay within legal limits.

☞ **Under New York State law, heavy duty trucks and buses may not idle for more than 5 consecutive minutes.**

There are exceptions to the law, including:

- when the engine is powering an auxiliary function such as loading or unloading cargo, or mixing concrete;
- when running the engine is required for maintenance; or
- when fire, police, utility or other vehicles are performing emergency services.

Penalties for violating the State idling law range from \$375 to \$22,500. The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) enforces this law.

☞ **Under New York City law, trucks and buses may not idle for more than 3 consecutive minutes.**

The law provides for two exceptions:

- when the engine is powering a loading, unloading or processing device; or
- when the vehicle is a legally authorized emergency vehicle.

Penalties for violating the City idling law range from \$220 to \$2,000. The New York City Department of Environmental Protection (NYCDEP) enforces this law.

If you see a truck or bus violating the idling laws, tell the driver or vehicle owner, or contact the agency in charge of enforcement. When reporting violations, be sure to take down the license plate number, exact location and date and time of the violation, and how long the vehicle was idling.

**To report a violation of the New York State idling law:**

Contact the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation at the local office listed in your phone book, or at (800) TIPP-DEC, or at <http://www.dec.state.ny.us/>.

You can also contact the Attorney General's office at (800) 771-7755 or at [www.ag.ny.gov](http://www.ag.ny.gov).

**To report violations of the New York City idling law:**

Contact the New York City DEP by calling New York City's information hotline, 311.

**For more information:**

New York State's idling regulation is found at 6 NYCRR §217-3.2.

New York City's idling regulation is found at NYC Administrative Code §24-163.

The American Lung Associations in New York have information on the health effects of air pollution and can be reached by calling (800) LUNG USA or at <http://www.alanys.org/>.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Transportation and Air Quality has information on air pollution from trucks and buses and can be reached at 734-214-4333 or [www.epa.gov/otaq](http://www.epa.gov/otaq).

**Dear New Yorker:**

How often have you been bothered by the black smoke that billows out of the tailpipes of trucks and buses? How often have you had to deal with the noise of trucks and buses left idling too long? These are real quality of life concerns.



Beyond these concerns, air pollution from trucks and buses poses a significant threat to the health of the people in New York State and to our natural environment. My office has prepared this pamphlet to help you understand the importance of limiting idling by trucks and buses. You will also learn about the New York State and New York City idling regulations.

Reducing idling can be as easy as turning off your engine. Let's work together to control truck and bus idling. By doing so, we will improve our health and the environment and, at the same time, save fuel and reduce fuel costs.

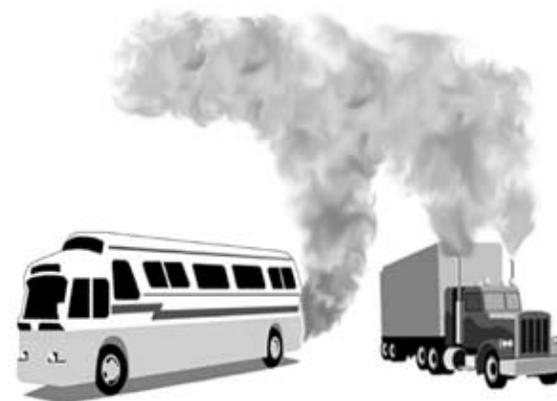
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eric T. Schneiderman". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Eric T. Schneiderman  
Attorney General

*Printed on recycled paper.*

# IDLING TRUCKS AND BUSES



*BAD FOR YOUR HEALTH*

*BAD FOR THE ENVIRONMENT*

*KNOW THE LAW*



ERIC T. SCHNEIDERMAN  
ATTORNEY GENERAL



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