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## **MAMMOTH MOUNTAIN'S NEW *SHUT-IT-OFF* POLICY SURPASSES NEW STATE REGULATION**

MAMMOTH MOUNTAIN, CA – A word to the wise: If you plan on parking a vehicle at any of Mammoth Mountain Ski Area's resort properties, don't plan on letting it idle for long.

A new policy was recently enacted by Mammoth Mountain to limit the amount of time vehicles can idle at any of the company's properties – day or night – to five minutes. This policy is part of Mammoth's ongoing effort to conserve resources and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. "Many people are under the misunderstanding that vehicle engines should stay running if they're only going to be parked for a short period of time," said Lisa Isaacs, Mammoth's Environmental Programs director. "According to our mechanics, if it's not extremely cold and the engine doesn't need to stay on for other reasons, it should be shut off if stationary for longer than five minutes."

The new measure affects all vehicles at the Ski Area (guest or company-owned, on-road, off-road or on-snow). It is expected to not only reduce toxic air emissions, but also conserve a large quantity of fuel. Aside from the company's sizeable bus fleet, recent calculations demonstrated that a single snowcat was annually burning about 400 gallons of diesel just idling. "Considering our fleet's size, this new policy could save around 20,000 gallons of diesel a year just in snowcats," noted John Walline, Mammoth Mountain's snowcat maintenance manager.

The five-minute idling time limit policy also targets the diesel smoke that is emitted into the air around resort parking lots. "Diesel fumes are known to be one of the worst air-borne carcinogens," according to Isaacs. In fact, diesel's dangerous threat to public health led the California Air Resources Board to adopt a series of statewide regulations as part of its Diesel Risk Reduction Plan, designed to cut diesel emissions 75 percent from 2000 levels by 2010. Most recently, a little-known, new CARB regulation limits idling times for commercial diesel trucks to five minutes and buses to ten minutes on all California roadways. The penalty for non-compliance of this new

regulation, which went into effect February 1, 2005, is \$100 plus criminal penalties as specified by California's Health and Safety Code.

While Mammoth's new policy doesn't have any penalties attached for non-compliance, it does surpass CARB's regulations by targeting all motor vehicles, diesel and gasoline alike (with appropriate exceptions in place), on and off-road. And while Isaacs isn't aware of any other mountain resort with such a policy in place, 20 other cities and states have enacted similar rules, according to Ted Schade, Air Pollution Control Officer for the Great Basin Air Pollution Control District. "I think it's a great policy," he said in reference to Mammoth. "Idling vehicles add to air pollution levels without providing any benefit to the community."

For more information about Mammoth Mountain's idling time limits policy, call 760.934.0773. For the complete text of CARB's new regulation, visit: [www.arb.ca.gov/toxics/idling/regtext.htm](http://www.arb.ca.gov/toxics/idling/regtext.htm).

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