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FUEL MISERS



The Town of Glastonbury



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INTRODUCTION

The fuel crisis of 2007 and 2008 left this question on many fleet managers' minds: "How can we cut our fuel usage?" Many a forum and committee has been formed to share ideas, thoughts and data on this subject. Police fleets around the nation are setting idle time restrictions in an attempt to curb fuel costs.

Many police agencies idle their vehicles while parked, which allows the vehicle to maintain enough power to operate the critical warning lights that protect lives.

They have to. Without the vehicles idling, warning lights operate solely on battery power. Over time, the warning lights will run down the battery, causing not only the lights to go off, but also requiring a "jump start" from a second vehicle.



Balancing idle time restrictions with the need for performance-ready vehicles provides a unique challenge for police vehicles.

FUEL CONSUMPTION STUDY LEADS TO DRAMATIC FUEL SAVINGS

Now, imagine for a moment that you could attach a device to a police car that would enable it to retain its ability to operate these warning lights while the vehicle is turned off and never have to worry about the battery going dead ...

Havis Shields Equipment Corporation has developed an ingenious new technology that provides just this ability. Enter the patent pending Idleright™ Fuel Management System. This device, which could fit in your coat pocket, attaches to the vehicle's ignition, battery and warning light systems. When the vehicle arrives on the scene, the officer simply turns the car off and leaves all the critical warning lights activated. The officer can walk away for hours – or even days – without worrying about the power being consumed by the warning lights.

"The Glastonbury Police Department was so impressed with the results of the study, that we will be installing this fuel-saving device in all of our marked police vehicles."

— Chief Thomas Sweeney

HERE'S HOW IT WORKS:

Without any input from the officer, the Idleright™ system takes over and begins to monitor the vehicle's battery condition. When the system detects a low voltage situation, it activates the ignition system, starts the car and idles the engine for a short period of time. This allows the engine and electrical system to recharge the car's battery power. When the Idleright™ system determines that the battery level is satisfactory (approximately 20 minutes for a typical V-8 police cruiser), it simply turns off the ignition, and the process starts over again. Several safety features are built into the system which prevent vehicle theft as well as unwanted vehicle starts.

The Glastonbury Police Department tested a prototype of the Idleright™ system and was impressed with the results. The test was conducted on a 2004 Ford Crown Victoria with all of its emergency lights activated. The vehicle ran for four (4) hours and consumed a little less than 2.8 gallons of fuel. The Idleright™ system was then installed in the car in less than two hours. In a four-hour period, with all of the emergency lights activated, the vehicle idle time was only 40 minutes and used approximately 0.46 gallons of fuel. With this particular setup, the car would be off for approximately 1 hour and 45 minutes before it needed to start. The car would run for 20 minutes, turn itself off, and again remain off for approximately 1 hour and 45 minutes.



	Idle time during 4-hour period	Fuel used (gallons)
Before Idleright™	4 hours	2.80
After Idleright™	40 minutes	0.46
Savings	83%	84%

Ford publishes in its Crown Victoria Police/Fleet Vehicles Owner's Manual Supplement that one hour of idle time is the equivalent of 33 miles of driving time when calculating oil change intervals. Calculating that over an 8-hour period and one shift can put 264 additional wear and tear miles on the car without it even moving an inch.

Police Chief Thomas Sweeney endorsed this fuel-saving initiative, saying "The Glastonbury Police Department was so impressed with the results of the study, that we will be installing this fuel-saving device in all of our marked police vehicles." The savings over the long run in fuel consumption is another town initiative toward going green. For information about the Idleright™ system, visit www.havis.com/idleright.

GLASTONBURY'S GREEN INITIATIVES PROGRAM

Glastonbury's Green Initiatives program operates under the direction of the Town Manager. The committee is chaired by the Purchasing Agent and the Superintendent of Sanitation. Committee members from across Town departments participate and contribute ideas and suggestions committed to a "greener" community.

The committee assembles information about products and services and makes the information available to specific departments that can evaluate them and develop applications in Town projects with the approval of the Town Manager.

These "Go-Green" bulletins contain information about the results of product evaluations and other accomplishments of Town departments. We hope this information can provide you insight to the Town's green initiatives and also lead others in the community to find ways to use environmentally preferable products. Please contact us if we can help you with further information or if you have additional suggestions. ■

