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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**HEALTH DEPARTMENT WARNING
HEAVY DUTY DIESEL ENGINE POWERED MOTOR VEHICLES
LIMIT IDLING TO PREVENT GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS**

PALM BEACH COUNTY, FL—The Palm Beach County Health Department Air Pollution Division has been charged with educating owners and operators of heavy-duty diesel engine powered motor vehicles to limit idling to under five consecutive minutes.

The new law went into effect in December 2008 and Health Department officials have been working on ways to educate owners and operators of diesel engine vehicles with a gross vehicle weight of 8,500 pounds or more on the intent of the new law.

“This is an excellent first step in helping to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Simply turning an engine off when not needed immediately stops it from polluting,” said Health Department Environmental Specialist Jon Barlow.

The law applies to all commercial, governmental, or public purpose vehicles used on roads for the transportation of passengers or freight. Gross vehicle weight is the value specified by the manufacturer as the maximum design loaded weight of a single vehicle.

The idling restriction has a few exemptions that guarantee safe operation of the vehicle, its freight and driver. Exemptions include:

- Idling while stopped for traffic conditions
- Buses can idle for 10 minutes prior to passenger loading to assure comfort
- Armored vehicles loading and unloading with a person always inside
- Emergency vehicles responding to an incident
- Idling for inspection and maintenance of a vehicle
- Idling for vehicle operations like a hoist, pump, crane, controlling cargo temperature, or auxiliary equipment other than air conditioner
- Idling while driver is sleeping or resting in a sleeper berth (this exemption expires September 30, 2013)
- Idling to operate heaters, defrosters, air conditioners to prevent a safety or health emergency, but not solely for the comfort of the driver.

Further information can be obtained by calling the Health Department at 561-355-3070 Ext. 1182 or on the website at www.pbchd.com.



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