



## REGIONAL DISTRICT OF OKANAGAN-SIMILKAMEEN PRESS RELEASE July 16, 2009

### Fuel Saving Tips and Vehicle Emission Testing

In this day and age it is only natural to look for ways to help improve local air quality and the environment. One easy way is to keep your vehicle properly maintained as this can reduce harmful engine emissions and save money. These everyday actions can also help reduce your impact on local air quality:

- Avoid idling your vehicle
- Obey the speed limit and avoid accelerating or braking quickly.
- Carpool or run multiple errands at once.
- Keep your tires properly inflated.
- Report heavy-duty diesel trucks or buses that are smoking excessively by calling toll free 1-888-775-8785.

The AirCare vehicle emissions testing program is not available in the Okanagan/Similkameen; however, AirCare offers emission testing with no fines for visitors to the Lower Mainland. AirCare will test your vehicle to determine how well it's performing. Emissions near or exceeding the fail limits mean that something has gone wrong with your engine or emission control system. AirCare inspections take about five minutes to complete and once you have your diagnosis you can fix the problem and be part of the solution.

Inspections cost \$23 for 1991 and older vehicles and \$45 for 1992 and newer vehicles. Any suggested repairs are voluntary and there are no fines if your vehicle does not pass the inspection test. Inspections on newer vehicles with a "Check Engine" light, will show what codes are stored in the memory along with the description of the code. After the inspection you will receive a Vehicle Inspection Report that displays the test results as well as an estimate of your vehicle's annual carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) production. Carbon dioxide is the main greenhouse gas produced by humans, and the main contributor to climate change.

AirCare repairs have reduced fuel use in the Lower Mainland by around 1.3 million litres per year, which is over \$1 million in fuel savings! The median cost to repair vehicles with excessive emission is less than \$400; a small price to pay for clean air.

The AirCare website has a CO<sub>2</sub> calculator found under the "Emissions Info" tab at [www.aircare.ca](http://www.aircare.ca). Fill in the year, make and model of your vehicle and find out how much carbon dioxide it produces per year and see how it compares to other types of vehicles. This is helpful information for the next time you're in the market for a vehicle. When you choose a more fuel-efficient vehicle you will save money, energy and reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

"It's doing the little things consistently that will help save you money and improve our local air quality," says Allan Patton, RDOS Rural Area Director C and Chair of the Okanagan-Similkameen Airshed Coalition Committee. "If everyone did this every day, the positive impact on our environment would be significant."

An information sheet on voluntary emission testing, driving tips and directions to an AirCare inspection centre can be picked up at the RDOS office @ 101 Martin St, or visit [www.rdos.bc.ca](http://www.rdos.bc.ca) and click on Air Quality – Engine Emissions