

VEHICLE FIRES

Purpose:

- A. To provide a means of extinguishing fires in vehicles.
- B. To protect suppression personnel when fighting vehicle fires.

Guidelines:

- A. Park apparatus uphill, upwind.
- B. Transmit report of conditions. Remember a vehicle is not fully involved if just the engine compartment is burning.
- C. Continue size up.
- D. Determine if additional assistance is needed.
- E. Obtain police assistance for traffic control.
- F. If involved vehicle is a common carrier, determine type of cargo.

Safety:

- A. Wear personal protective clothing and SCBA until all visible fire and smoke have disappeared.
- B. Consider traffic conditions and be conscious of traffic hazards to personnel.
- C. Consider the flow of spilled fuel (burning or non-burning).
- D. Use adequate size hose lines, appropriate portable extinguishers, and/or appropriate type foam, as needed.
- E. Be alert for possible explosion of fuel system.
- F. Be on guard for explosion of pressurized “energy absorbing” bumpers and shock absorbers.
- G. Be mindful that batteries may serve as an ignition source, produce electrical shock or explode.
- H. Remember that the suspension systems on many buses may collapse to within four (4) inches of ground level when exposed to fire.
- I. Remember that most motorhomes, campers and mobile canteens have built-in LPG tanks on board.
- J. Vehicles that have air bags and the air bag has not deployed should be approached with caution. Personnel should not position themselves between the bag and seat while the air bag system is armed.
- K. Vehicles with armed, undeployed air bags should not have any tools or other objects placed in their vicinity due to those objects becoming flying objects.

Operations:

- A. Consider life safety.
- B. Consider water supply availability.
- C. Consider slope of terrain.
- D. Determine type of fuel which may be involved:
 - 1. Gasoline.
 - 2. Diesel.
 - 3. Propane.
 - 4. Liquefied Natural Gas.
 - 5. Battery.
 - 6. Other.
- E. Consider fuel system – newer vehicles have pressurized fuel systems.
- F. Coordinate with law enforcement personnel at the scene.
- G. Breathing apparatus shall be necessary for operations on all vehicle fires, inside and outside the vehicle.
- H. Be prepared for tire fires to re-ignite.

Post Emergency:

- A. Investigate the cause of fire in accordance with SOG #1400.5
- B. Cooperate with law enforcement investigation.
- C. Insure that vehicle is in a fire safe condition prior to towing service removal.