
Emergency Operations

Book:	3 - Emergency Operations
Chapter	IV – Firefighting
Subject	2 – Vehicle Fires
Code	3-IV-3
Revised	6/05/2003

3.01 Purpose

- A. To provide a means of extinguishing fires in vehicles.
- B. To protect suppression personnel when fighting vehicle fires.
- C. To identify the cause of all vehicle fires.

3.02 Policy

- A. These guidelines shall be followed whenever a fire occurs in a vehicle.

3.03 Procedure

- A. Park apparatus uphill, and upwind from the vehicle if it all possible.
- B. Transmit a report on conditions.
- C. Continue size up.
- D. Determine if additional assistance is needed.
- E. Request police assistance for traffic control
- F. If involved vehicle is a common carrier, determine the type of cargo.

3.04 Safety

- A. Wear full protective clothing as per Protective Clothing Policy.
- B. Consider traffic conditions and be conscious of traffic hazards to personnel.
- C. Use other responding vehicles to provide a barrier between you and oncoming traffic.
- D. Consider flow of spilled fuel (burning or not burning)
- E. Use adequate size hose lines; appropriate portable extinguishers, and/or appropriate type of foam, as needed.
- 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 motor homes, campers, and mobile canteens may have built in LPG containers on board, which could create a fire and/or explosion hazard.
- I. Vehicles that have airbags which have not deployed should be approached with caution. Personnel should not position themselves or any tools between the bag and the seat while the air bag system is armed.

3.05 Operations

- A. Consider life safety.
- B. Consider water supply availability.
- C. Consider slope of terrain and chock wheels of vehicle if movement may pose a problem or is possible.
- D. Determine the type of fuel involved
 - 1. Gasoline
 - 2. Diesel
 - 3. Propane
 - 4. Other
- E. Consider fuel system – newer vehicles have pressurized fuel systems
- F. Coordinate with law enforcement personnel on scene
- G. Breathing Apparatus shall be necessary for operations on all vehicle fires, inside and outside of vehicle.

3.06 Post Emergency

- A. Investigate the cause of the fire.
- B. Interview the owner as to how vehicle was operating prior to fire
- C. Interview the owner as to any recent repairs to the vehicle.
- D. Call for the Fire Marshal if unable to determine cause.
- E. Insure that the vehicle is in a fire safe condition prior to removal from the scene.
- F. Coordinate with law enforcement personnel on scene to have vehicle removed.