

HIGH RISK/LOW FREQUENCY

HUDSON FIRE DEPARTMENT

Standard Operating Guidelines

GUIDELINE NO: 300.06

SUBJECT: VEHICLE FIRES

APPROVAL: Scott St. Martin, Fire Chief

Effective Date: 5-16-16

Revised Date: n/a

PURPOSE

The purpose of this guideline is to provide operational strategy when responding to and extinguishing vehicle fires. This guideline applies to automobiles, light duty trucks, medium trucks, tractor-trailers, campers, buses, trains, construction equipment, motorcycles and other on and off road vehicles. This guideline does not apply to vehicles involved in hazardous materials or to vehicle fires inside of structures.

RESPONSIBILITY

1. All Chief and Company Officers have the responsibility to comply with and ensure that the personnel under their command are adequately trained, fully understand, and comply with this guideline.
2. All firefighters have the responsibility to learn and follow this guideline.

GUIDELINES

A. Incident Priorities

1. Life Safety
2. Incident Stabilization
3. Property Conservation

B. Apparatus Response

1. Apparatus response is dictated by *Guideline 300.01 Apparatus Response Guideline*
2. If original dispatch information pertains to off-road vehicle fire, the appropriate apparatus should respond simultaneously.

C. All personal protective equipment (PPE) with Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) is required.

D. First arriving Fire Department Officer shall give first in report, establish or transfer Incident Command.

1. Special attention shall be made to identify any placards, labels or other visual indicators that may provide essential information relating to hazardous materials or other materials for the safety of all persons involved.

E. An "all clear" shall be established related to a primary search for any vehicle occupants.

F. Suppression Operations

1. Establish a traffic incident management area for vehicle fires located on the roadways.
2. The first arriving Engine shall, if possible, position uphill and upwind from the vehicle(s) on fire.
3. This Engine shall be positioned approximately 100 feet from the vehicle.
 - a. Other responding apparatus shall be parked based on Incident Commander's orders.
 1. Traffic incident management and other support functions shall be considered when arriving on scene.
4. The minimum size of hose line for fire suppression is 1¾ inches.
5. Attack fire from an approximate 45 degree angle to the long axis of the vehicle
6. The attack shall be made from a safe location taking into account for hazards such as bumpers, gas shocks, traffic etc.
7. Select the appropriate fire stream to attack the fire based on conditions and location of fire.

8. Backup lines shall be used as required.
9. Chalk wheels of vehicle when safe to do so.

G. Overhaul

1. Overhaul shall be performed as soon as possible after fire has been controlled to check for extension and hidden fires.
2. Batteries shall be disconnected and other possible ignition sources eliminated to prevent the ignition of flammable vapors or chemicals.
3. Caution shall be taken during overhaul procedures so that the origin and cause of the fire may be determined.

H. Other Hazards associated with Vehicle Fires

1. Air bags – The air bags may not have deployed, use caution when conducting overhaul operations around these.
2. Combustible metals – If a combustible metal is involved in fire, use Class D Fire Extinguisher.
3. Hybrid Vehicles – Hybrid Vehicle fires can be addressed the same as conventional vehicle fires.
4. Fuel system other than gasoline – Some vehicles may be powered by LPG or CNG, saddle fuel tanks on larger trucks or alternative fuels.
5. Other hazardous materials may be discovered upon conducting overhaul. Identification and appropriate precautions shall be taken if this occurs.

References: Risk and frequency classification information -<http://firefighterclosecalls.com/sopsog.php>

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