

## **STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINE - 4.5.3**

### **TOPIC - FIRE - VEHICLE**

#### **PURPOSE:**

To promote a standard approach to the safe extinguishment of vehicle fires.

#### **GENERAL:**

Given the nature of available fuels, the intensity with which they burn, the toxicity of the by-products of combustion, and potential exposures, vehicle fires have a great potential to be more than a small isolated event.

#### **GUIDELINE:**

##### **RESPONSE AND ARRIVAL**

1. Staff apparatus based upon standard resource requirements established in SOG 1.2.1, and the capabilities of available personnel. Be sure to staff first out engine adequately.
2. Respond in compliance with SOG 1.1.1, choosing the most efficient route of travel and considering the response routes of other apparatus.
3. Based upon the sequence of events in relation to your arrival follow the appropriate operating guidelines, establish command and make assignments, or receive an assignment from command.
4. Consider the nature of possible exposures.
5. Listen for an adequate response. Request additional resources as soon as you have identified the potential for their need.
6. Commit only essential resources, stage uncommitted resources, and provide for a tactical reserve.
7. Be aware of the potential for the presence of hazardous materials.

##### **OPERATIONAL CONSIDERATIONS**

1. If the fire is beyond the control capabilities of a portable fire extinguisher, use one or more inch-and-one-half (1 ½"), or larger, hose lines.
2. Wear SCBA on any vehicle fire that is beyond the extinguishment capabilities of a portable fire extinguisher.
3. Coordinate hose lines to contain and control any spilled fuel.

4. Extinguishment may require a combination of hose lines and portable fire extinguishers.(AFFF?)
5. Gain access to all areas of fire involvement and potential fire extension.
6. Apply extinguishment efforts to those areas of the vehicle where there is the greatest loss potential first, then progress to complete extinguishment.
7. Evaluate effects of the fire and by-products of combustion on exposures and other down-wind areas.
8. Initiate salvage operations as soon as personnel and equipment become available.
9. Conduct overhaul operations checking for and extinguishing extensions of the fire. Be certain that all of the fire is out prior to leaving the scene.
10. Reduce committed resources as circumstances allow.
11. Provide for fire cause investigation.

#### SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS

1. Work in teams within the accountability system.
2. Assign a Safety Officer.
3. Take precautions to know where any liquid fuel is, and what it is doing throughout the incident.
4. Be aware of explosion hazards such as: tires, battery, shock absorbers, etc.
5. Be cautious of cargo and cargo areas. Recognize hazards and communicate findings.
6. Operate within the established action plan, no free-lancing.
7. Every person operating on the emergency scene must have the appropriate level of protective gear and training to perform the assigned task.