

# VEHICLE FIRES

## PURPOSE

To establish safe operating procedures for incidents involving vehicle fires.

## PROCEDURE

### 1. Position Apparatus

- A. Uphill and upwind of the fire, at a safe distance for the hazards presented.
- B. Place apparatus between oncoming traffic and firefighting operations if possible, check for HazMat placards.
- C. Keep a safe distance from “running” fuels.
- D. Consider the reach of desired hose lay.

### 2. Water Supply Considerations

- A. Check for the nearest hydrant locations.
- B. For freeway response, determine the best location for additional water supply.
- C. Call for additional response if needed (e.g., HazMat, tender).

### 3. Fire Attack

- A. Stop all traffic, if needed, for safe operations (notify appropriate agencies).
- B. Wear PPE and SCBA.
- C. Secure water source if needed, pull minimum 1 ½” line.
- D. If fully involved, consider initial attack with a master stream.
- E. Approach from corners; beware of “loaded” bumpers, hood and hatchback shocks.
- F. Chock vehicle wheels or pull stems to keep it from moving.
- G. Place no flares downhill or downwind of vehicle.
- H. Consider dry chemical extinguishment or foam for fires involving running fuels or metals.
- I. Dam or divert fuels running towards street drains
- J. Apply appropriate absorbent onto spilled petroleum products, and crimp or plug any leaks.
- K. Initiate fire investigation – limit overhaul until cause determination is complete.

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4. **CNG Alternative Fuel Vehicles and RV's with LPG**
- A. Assess if vehicle is fueled with CNG (Compressed Natural Gas)
  - B. Defensive attack at distance may be appropriate.
  - C. If tank is venting maintain safe distance.
  - D. Consider using Master Streams.



## KEY CONSIDERATIONS

- Be mindful of vehicles with high voltage systems/headlights if using a piercing nozzle.
- Be cautious of hybrid and alternative fuel vehicles.