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| <p style="text-align: center;">TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT CHAPTER 2: SUGGESTED OPERATING GUIDELINES</p> |
| <p>Part 9: Tactical Checklist Subject: Vehicle Fires Page 1 of 4 Effective Date: 07-01-95</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Section: 2-9-5 Reviewed/Revised Date: 07-29-11</p> |

Part 9: Tactical Checklist

Subject: Vehicle Fires

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Effective Date: 07-01-95

Section: 2-9-5

Reviewed/Revised Date: 07-29-11

- 5.01 Goal. To provide a guideline for response to vehicle fires.
- 5.02 Vehicle Fires - General.
- A) A response of one Engine, Tender, and Squad are assigned to vehicle fires.
 - B) When the incident involves the need for extrication, the Rescue Truck will respond before the Engine and the Tender.
 - C) If hazardous materials are involved, consider need to upgrade the response by requesting the regional Haz-Mat Team.
 - D) If the vehicle is within or near a structure, consider need to upgrade the response to a structure fire response. Refer to the appropriate box card for apparatus responses.
 - E) A search for victims must be made of all vehicle compartments.
 - 1) Passenger areas.
 - 2) Cargo areas.
 - 3) Trunks of passenger vehicles.
 - F) Chock the wheels of vehicles involved in fire to prevent movement.
- 5.03 Hazards to Personnel.
- A) Toxic fumes are generated by burning vehicles. **Use SCBA**.
 - B) Hazardous materials.
 - 1) Cargo in trucks.
 - 2) Flammable/combustible liquids in fuel tanks.
 - 3) Alternative fuels (LP, Compressed Natural Gas, LNG).
 - 4) Contents of vehicles (gasoline can in trunk).
 - C) Explosive action of vehicle parts (overpressure rupture).
 - 1) Hydraulic shock absorbers and bumpers.
 - 2) Hydraulic systems.
 - 3) Brake systems.

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- 4) Drive shafts.
- 5) Gas struts on trunk, hatch backs and/or hoods.
- 6) Fuel tanks.

D) Electrical shock (vehicle contacting downed power lines).

5.04 Positioning Apparatus.

- A) If possible, park **uphill** and **upwind** at least **75 feet** from burning vehicle.
- B) Angle the Engine to protect personnel from on-coming traffic.
- C) Use traffic cones to guide traffic away from fire area.
- D) Coordinate traffic control with police.

5.05 Vehicle Fire with Trapped Victims.

- A) Goal is to cut off the fire from the victim(s).
- B) If spilled fuel is under the vehicle, direct narrow fog pattern under vehicle.
This action will sweep fuel from under the vehicle.
- C) Direct wide fog pattern into window to cool the vehicle interior.
- D) Provide protection and cooling as rescuers remove victims from the vehicle.

5.06 Fire Involving Engine Compartment.

A) Hood Open.

- 1) Attack with short bursts from a dry-chemical extinguisher from side of vehicle.
- 2) Direct narrow fog pattern from side of vehicle.

B) Hood Closed.

- 1) Do not open hood completely - the hood is limiting the oxygen supply to the fire.
- 2) Open hood a few inches and direct dry-chemical agent or water stream into compartment.
- 3) If hood will not open, direct agent or water stream through vehicle grill or punched out headlight.

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Caution: Vehicle Bumpers and Gas Struts Can React With Explosive Force. Always approach the front or rear of a vehicle at a 45 degree angle, never straight on.

5.07 Fire Involving Passenger Compartment.

- A) Position hoseline or extinguisher before opening closed vehicle.
- B) Open door slowly - fire could flash.
- C) Always search for victims.
- D) Use narrow fog pattern.

5.08 Fire Involving Cargo Area or Trunk.

- A) Attempt to identify material(s) carried within cargo areas.
 - 1) Information from driver (statements, bill of lading).
 - 2) Markings on vehicle (placards, company name on vehicle, alternative fuel stickers).
- B) Position hoselines or extinguishers before opening closed compartment.

Caution: Truck cargo areas can have volume equal to some structures. The potential for backdraft or flashover exists!

- C) Always search for victims.

5.09 Leaking Fuel Tanks.

- A) Attempt to stop leak by plugging hole.
- B) Attempt to stop leaking fuel line by closing valve or crimping fuel line.
- C) Prevent ignition of fuel vapors by applying foam blanket on surface of spilled fuel.
- D) Prevent spilled fuels or liquids from entering storm or sanitary sewers with the use of absorbing or containment materials. Any spillage should be reported to DNR through Base.

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5.10 Overhaul.

- A) Delay extensive overhaul until investigator or Officer in Charge has had the opportunity to examine vehicle for origin and cause.
- B) Strip smoldering interior finishes and complete extinguishment using water.
- C) Dashboard fires may require removal of the unit to complete extinguishment.
- D) Disconnect or cut negative cable from vehicle battery.
- E) Avoid contamination of personnel when overhauling contents. Seek technical assistance if personnel are exposed to hazardous materials.
- F) Contain water run-off if it contains flammable liquids or other contaminants.

5.11 Terminating the Incident.

- A) Obtain information for incident report.
 - 1) Vehicle license number and year.
 - 2) Make, model and year of manufacture.
 - 3) Vehicle identification number.
 - 4) Owner name, street address, city, state, zip code and telephone number.
 - 5) Operator at time of fire (Name, etc.)
 - 6) Insurance company or agent.
- B) Offer assistance to owner/operator in obtaining towing service if requested.
- C) Offer assistance to police to restore roadway to normal traffic conditions.
- D) Thoroughly clean equipment (especially protective clothing) which may have contacted flammable liquids or other substances.