



Missouri Valley Fire & Rescue Department

223 E. Erie St.

Missouri Valley, IA 51555

Phone 712-642-2945 Emergency 911

STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINE

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350

Chronological History

Effective: January 1, 2010

VEHICLE FIRES

Purpose

To provide a means of extinguishing fires in vehicles and to protect suppression personnel when fighting vehicle fires.

Policy

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

Procedure

1. Park apparatus uphill, upwind.
2. Transmit report on conditions.
3. Continue size up.
4. Determine if additional assistance is needed.
5. Obtain security assistance for traffic control.
6. If involved vehicle is a commercial carrier, determine type of cargo, and take appropriate action.

Safety

1. Wear full protective clothing and self-contained breathing apparatus.
2. Consider traffic conditions and be conscious of traffic hazardous to personnel.
3. Consider the flow of spilled fuel (burning or non-burning).
4. Use adequate size hose lines, appropriate portable extinguishers, and/or appropriate type foam, as needed.
5. Be alert for possible explosion of fuel system.
6. Be on guard for explosion of pressurized "energy absorbing" bumpers and shock absorbers.
7. Be mindful that batteries may serve as an ignition source, produce electrical shock, or explode.
8. Remember that the suspension systems on many buses and over the road haulers may collapse to within four inches of ground level when exposed to fire.
9. Remember that most lift trucks have built-in liquified petroleum gas (LPG) tanks on board.

10. Vehicles that have air bags and the air bag has not deployed should be approached with caution. Personnel should not position themselves between the bag and seat while the air bag system is armed.
11. Vehicles with armed, undeployed air bags should not have any tools or other objects placed in their vicinity due to those objects becoming projectiles.

Operations

1. Consider life safety.
2. Consider water supply availability.
3. Consider slope of terrain.
4. Determine type of fuel which may be involved:
 - a. Gasoline
 - b. Diesel
 - c. Propane
 - d. Other
5. Consider fuel system - newer vehicles have pressurized fuel systems.
6. Coordinate with security personnel at the scene.
7. Breathing apparatus shall be necessary for operations on all vehicle fires.
8. Be prepared for tire fires to re-ignite.

**By Authority of:
Fire Chief**

Eugene Shaeffer

