

	<h1>COMMERCE FIRE DEPARTMENT</h1> <h2>Standard Operating Guidelines</h2>
	Subject: Vehicles Fires
	Reference Number: 2.02
	Effective Date: 1/9/2014 Last Date Revised: 8/6/2015
Approved By: Chief Kevin Dean	

Purpose: This procedure is intended to provide guidelines for the extinguishment of vehicle fires. This procedure 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 accidents or to vehicle fires inside of structures.

Scope: This SOG applies to all Commerce Fire Department members.

Common Vehicle Descriptions:

1. Passenger Vehicle: Any vehicle used to transport up to seven (7) passengers (Automobile, pick-up truck).
2. Small Truck: Any vehicle used to transport equipment and/or commercial products with a GVW (Gross Vehicle Weight) of 11,000 lbs or less (Delivery trucks).
3. Large Truck: Any vehicle with a GVW of 28,000 lbs that is used to transport equipment and/or merchandise to more than one location on a route (Motor Freight).
4. Transport Trailer: Any vehicle used to transport large amounts of equipment and/or materials over the open roads (Car Hauler, Semi-truck, Camper Trailer).
5. Bus: Any vehicle used to transport up to sixty (60) passengers to various locations (School Bus, Charter Bus).
6. Off Road Vehicle: Equipment or vehicle used primarily for off improved surfaces (ATV, Earth Moving Equipment, Farm Equipment).

Probable Response Units:

1. Passenger vehicle, small truck, off road vehicle – One (1) Engine Company and one (1) Service Company.
2. Large Trucks, Buses, Transport Trailer – One (1) Engine Company, one (1) Service Company, and one (1) Tanker/Tender.
 - a. An Incident Commander or Command Officer shall retain the authority to either upgrade or downgrade any resource response.

Safety:

Firefighters shall wear full personal protective equipment (PPE) including SCBA on all vehicle fires due to the potential for injury. Firefighters shall make every effort to protect both themselves and citizens from harm at vehicle fire incidents. Firefighters should remain aware of oncoming vehicles while operating on or near roadways along with hydraulic hoses and cylinders that may pose a threat of rupture. At no time during vehicle firefighting operations should the fuel caps be removed from the fuel tank fills. The Incident Commander shall make every effort to determine the shipment contents of freight vehicles and adjust the operations of this agency appropriately. Adequate law enforcement personnel must be present to control traffic hazards. Firefighters present that are not critical to the operation shall stay out of the roadway in a safe location. Firefighter not in SCBA shall don reflective safety vests when operating or assisting near the roadways.

Operational Objectives:

The Incident Commander shall use his/her training and experience to determine the best method of vehicle fire extinguishment (portable extinguisher, pre-connected hose lines, foaming agents, etc. Pre-connected hose lines of no less than 1.75" in diameter shall be deployed for vehicle firefighting and exposure protection. Exposed property shall be protected from fire, heat, and smoke damage with fire service hose lines. Any victims that are located shall be rescued and EMS activated appropriately. The environment shall be protected from run-off substances or spills. In the event the environment is exposed to deteriorating factors, the proper authorities shall be notified immediately (ref SOP # 4.01).

NOTE: A booster line is permissible if the fire is very minor in nature. A fire of any significance shall require an attack line of at least 1 ¾ " in diameter.

Terrain:

The Incident Commander shall use good judgment in gaining access to off road type vehicles fire due to possible damage to department vehicles. Fire service vehicles should not leave unimproved surfaces (gravel or better roads) unless warranted.

Property and Evidence Conservation:

Property and evidence conservation shall include operations of salvage and overhaul to preserve items of value. All personnel shall make the Incident Commander or designee aware of any items of value that are found so that the items may be secured. Any item or items that may be useful in the detection of a fire suspected or determined to be fraudulent or malicious should be preserved and secured. In the case of suspected arson, the State Fire Marshal's Office should be called.

Conclusion:

Fire Service personnel shall wear full protective equipment while operating at a vehicle fire scene. Further protection shall be given to persons, exposures, and the environment.