

Union County Standard Operating Guidelines
Fireground Operations

Fireground Operations, SOG 3.32

VEHICLE FIRES

1. Intent and Purpose

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

2. Procedure

- Park apparatus uphill and upwind if possible.
- Transmit report on conditions.
- Continue size-up.
- Determine if additional assistance is needed.
- Obtain Police, Sheriff, or State Patrol assistance for traffic control if necessary.
- If involved vehicle is a common carrier, determine type of cargo (driver and/or manifest) if possible.

3. Safety

- All members involved in direct operations shall be in full protective clothing, including SCBA.
- Consider traffic conditions and be aware of traffic hazards to personnel.
- Consider the flow of spilled fuel (burning or non-burning).
- Be alert for possible explosion of fuel system, and pressurized “energy absorbing” bumpers and shock absorbers.
- Be mindful that batteries may serve as an ignition source, produce electrical shock, or explode.
- Suspension systems on many buses may collapse to within four (4) inches of ground level when exposed to fire.
- Remember that most motor homes, campers, and mobile canteens have built-in LPG tanks on board.
- Vehicles that have air bags which have not deployed should be approached with caution. Personnel should not position themselves between the bag(s) and seat while the air bag system is armed (if possible).
- Vehicles with armed, un-deployed air bags, pressurized “energy absorbing” bumpers, or shock absorbers should not have any tools or other objects placed in their vicinity.

4. Operations

- Consider life safety.
- Consider water supply availability.
- Determine type of fuel which may be involved:
- Consider fuel system – newer vehicles have pressurized fuel systems.
- Coordinate operations with law enforcement personnel at the scene.

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- SCBA's will be necessary for operations on all vehicle fires, inside and outside the vehicle.
 - Attack fire with 1 ¾ " hose line or larger.
 - Be prepared for tire fires to re-ignite.
5. Post Emergency
- Investigate the cause of fire.
 - Insure that vehicle is in a safe condition prior to towing service removal of vehicle.