



Wintergreen Fire and Rescue Standard Operating Guideline	
Subject:	Vehicle Fires
Reference Number:	FIRE 03-010
Effective Date:	22-May-05
Last Revision Date:	N/A
Signature of Approval	Curtis Sheets, Chief

Purpose: To provide a means of extinguishing vehicles fires while maintaining appropriate safety thresholds for personnel.

POLICY: These guidelines shall be followed for all vehicle fires.

- When possible, park apparatus uphill and upwind. Determine if additional assistance is needed. Obtain police assistance for traffic control. If the involved vehicle is a “common carrier,” determine type of cargo.
- Wear protective clothing as per SOG # 03007
- Breathing apparatus shall be necessary for operations on all vehicle fires, inside and outside the vehicle.
- Consider the flow of spilled fuel (burning or non burning).
- Determine type of fuel, which may be involved. Newer vehicles have pressurized fuel systems
- Be alert for possible explosion of fuel system, pressurized "energy absorbing" bumpers and shock absorbers, batteries that may serve as an ignition source, produce electrical shock or explode and LPG tanks
- The suspension systems on many buses may collapse to within four (4) inches of ground level when exposed to fire.
- Vehicles with undeployed airbags should be approached with caution. Personnel should not position themselves, or tools between the airbag and seat while the air bag system is armed.
- Consider life safety, Water supply availability, and the slope of the terrain.
- Insure that vehicle is in a fire safe condition prior to towing service removal of same.