

The Woodlands Fire Department Operational Guidelines

SR-02 - VEHICLE FIRES

1.0 PURPOSE

To provide for firefighter safety when dealing with automobile or other light duty vehicles when involved in fire.

2.0 RESPONSE

2.1 The initial response for an automobile type fire will be one (1) apparatus.

3.0 POSITIONING OF APPARATUS – Apparatus arriving at the scene will attempt to:

3.1 Position the apparatus behind the vehicle and across the lanes of traffic 45 degrees to the roadway.

3.2 Position uphill from the vehicle involved in fire.

3.3 Position apparatus a safe distance from the vehicle involved in fire.

4.0 SAFETY

4.1 Prior to entering the Hazard Zone, all personnel will be in full bunker gear with SCBA in use.

4.2 Firefighters approaching the vehicle will stay clear of unsafe areas, such as directly in front of or behind the vehicle, or directly facing the underside of the vehicle if it is on its side.

4.3 Firefighters should anticipate:

- A. multiple fuel tanks
- B. fuel tanks involved in fire
- C. LPG or CNG power
- D. Flammable metals
- E. Exploding drive shafts
- F. Batteries
- G. Hazardous materials
- H. Toxic smoke

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<#>SCOPE¶
¶
This procedure is to be followed by all members and officers of this department. Authority to deviate from this procedure rests with the Incident Commander who is solely responsible for the results of any deviation.¶

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The initial response for an automobile type fire is one (1) engine company.¶
¶
<#>Engine-101 first due in District One¶
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<#>Engine-102 first due in District Two¶
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<#>Engine-103 first due in District Three¶
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<#>Engine-104 first due in District Four¶
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<#>Engine-105 first due in District Five¶
¶
The first arriving apparatus shall size-up the situation and relay a description to Dispatch.¶

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PERSONAL PROTECTIVE GEAR -
Prior to entering the Hazard Zone, all personnel shall have complete protection in the form of:¶
¶
<#>Bunker Coat, closed with the collar up¶
¶
<#>Bunker Pants and Boots¶
¶
<#>SCBA in use¶
¶
<#>Gloves on¶
¶

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- I. [Gas shock absorbers, gas shock lift cylinders](#)
- J. [Air conditioning systems](#)
- K. [Airbags](#)

4.4 [Firefighters will NOT remove the gasoline filler cap, which would allow heated gas vapors to be released.](#)

5.0 ATTACK GUIDELINES

5.1 [A minimum of a 1 3/4 " hand line will be used as the initial attack line. A booster line may be used as a secondary line for a fuel tank cooling and overhaul purposes only.](#)

5.2 The initial attack line [will](#) approach the vehicle from the side (cooling the fuel tank if necessary).

5.3 The initial attack line [will](#) attempt to extinguish all visible fire or hold it in check until forcible entry has been made.

5.4 The initial attack line or secondary attack line [will](#) be used as a protection line while forcible entry is being made to the engine compartment, trunk, or passenger compartment.

6.0 OVERHAUL:

6.1 After extinguishment of visible flames, the firefighters [will](#) allow the vehicle to clear of smoke and/or steam. [The initial attack line or booster line will be used](#) for reducing metal temperature and eliminating smoldering fires. Only when the smoke has cleared [will](#) the firefighters remove [their](#) SCBA.

6.2 Remove or [cut](#) the **negative** battery cable. This [will](#) be done in full bunker gear.

6.3 Care [will](#) be taken to preserve the vehicle in the case that an investigation is warranted.

6.4 [Crews will ensure thorough extinguishment and overhaul before returning to service.](#)

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<#>LPG or CNG fuel cylinders and supply lines¶
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<#>Airborne bumpers¶
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<#>Exploding drive shafts¶
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<#>Exploding truck wheels (heavy duty pickups)¶
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<#>Exploding batteries¶
¶
<#>Hazardous contents¶
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<#>Toxic smoke from burning materials¶
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<#>Metal fires (engines and wheels)¶
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<#>Gas shock absorbers¶
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PERSONAL PROTECTIVE GEAR - Prior to entering the Hazard Zone, all personnel shall have complete protection in the form of:

Bunker Coat, closed with the collar up

Bunker Pants and Boots

SCBA in use

Gloves on

Helmet with ear flaps down

Face Shield Down

APPROACH – Firefighters approaching the vehicle shall stay clear of **UNSAFE AREAS**.

Directly facing the front or rear of the vehicle

Directly facing the underside of the vehicle when on its side

Exploding fuel tanks

LPG or CNG fuel cylinders and supply lines

Airborne bumpers

Exploding drive shafts

Exploding truck wheels (heavy duty pickups)

Exploding batteries

Hazardous contents

Toxic smoke from burning materials

Metal fires (engines and wheels)

Gas shock absorbers

Air conditioning systems

Lighting components

Hatchbacks, trunk, and hood life cylinders

Airbags

Under NO CONDITIONS should the gasoline filler cap be removed. This would allow heated gasoline vapors to escape thus increasing the danger level.

ATTACK APPARATUS AND APPLIANCES – A minimum of a 1½” preconnected line should be used as the initial attack line. A booster line may be used as a SECONDARY line for a fuel tank cooling and overhaul purposes only. It is the option of the Incident Commander to lay a supply line and/or use a second attack line.

FORCIBLE ENTRY EQUIPMENT – The following tools are examples that may be used for forcible entry into vehicle fires:

Halligan Bar

Crow Bar

Long Pry Bar

Porta-Power

Air Chisel

Sawsall (reciprocating saw)