

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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- 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 ¾ " 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.