

## **Halifax Fire Department**

August 19, 2003

### **STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINE**

#### **Vehicle Fires**

##### **6.01 PURPOSE**

- A. To provide a means of extinguishing fires in vehicles.
- B. To protect suppression personnel when fighting vehicle fires.

##### **6.02 POLICY**

- A. These guidelines shall be followed whenever a fire occurs in a vehicle.

##### **6.03 PROCEDURE**

- A. Position apparatus uphill, upwind.
- B. Transmit report on conditions (fully involved, confined to interior etc.)
- C. Continue size up.
- D. Determine if additional assistance is needed.
- E. Obtain police assistance for traffic control.
- F. If involved vehicle is a common carrier, determine type of cargo (placards).

##### **6.04 SAFETY**

- A. Protective clothing shall be worn as per Protective Clothing SOG # 2.
- B. Consider traffic hazards to personnel.
- C. Consider the flow of spilled fuel (burning or non-burning).
- D. Use appropriate size and type hose lines, extinguishers, or foam for incident.
- E. Be alert for possible explosion of fuel system.
- F. Be alert for explosion of pressurized “energy absorbing” bumpers and shock absorbers.
- G. Be alert that batteries may serve as an ignition source, produce electrical shock, or explode.
- H. Keep in mind that suspension systems (air) on many buses may collapse to within 4” of the ground when exposed to fire.
- I. Be cautious of motor homes, campers, canteen trucks, and some vehicles that are LPG fueled.
- J. Do not position yourself between air bags that have not been deployed and the seat until system has been disarmed.
- K. Do not place any tools or other objects in the vicinity of undeployed air bags, those objects can become flying objects.

## **6.05 OPERATIONS**

- A. Consider life safety hazards.
- B. Consider water supply.
- C. Consider slope of terrain.
- D. Determine type of fuel that may be involved:
  - 1. Gasoline.
  - 2. Diesel.
  - 3. Propane.
  - 4. Other.
- E. Consider fuel system, newer vehicles have a pressurized system.
- F. Coordinate with police at the scene.
- G. SCBA shall be donned for all vehicle fires, inside and outside of the vehicle.
- H. Be aware of tire fires re-igniting.

## **6.06 POST EMERGENCY**

- A. Investigate cause of fire.
- B. Cooperate with police investigation.
- C. Fill out Halifax Fire Department "vehicle fire worksheet"
- D. Insure that the burned vehicle is in a fire safe condition prior to towing service removal.