

**Abington Township Fire Department**  
**Guideline for Vehicles Used in Training**



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This guideline shall serve as an overview for utilizing vehicles in training at the Abington Township Fire Training Facility.

Vehicles used in training for either vehicle fires or extrication practices are to be drained of all fluids and hazardous products prior to their arrival for use in training. This includes items such as gasoline, oils, coolants, etc.

Vehicles used for this purpose are obtained from a “salvage yard” business in which we have had a relationship for many years. A local towing service is used for transporting the vehicles back and forth between the training facility and the salvage yard. Once the vehicles are utilized and salvageable parts are removed from the vehicle, the remains of the vehicle are scraped for the value of the steel.

Should you be aware of a vehicle to be donated for use in training, you should contact Larry Siefken to arrange for pick up by the towing company. The towing company will transport the vehicle to the salvage yard where the vehicle will be drained of hazardous products and later returned to the facility for use.

This activity comes with a cost so the use of vehicles should be carefully managed.

When vehicles are used in training extrication practices, any sections or parts of the vehicle removed during this training are to be returned to the vehicle after the training concludes for appropriate removal of the vehicle. In example, if a door is fully removed from a vehicle during the training, once the training concludes the door is to be placed back in the vehicle, such as within the passenger compartment, and not left on the ground in the area of the vehicle.

Excelsior is the only product to be placed in a vehicle when fire suppression training activities are taking place and ignited with a flare. Should there be activity within the stadium of the high school, suppression training should not take place.

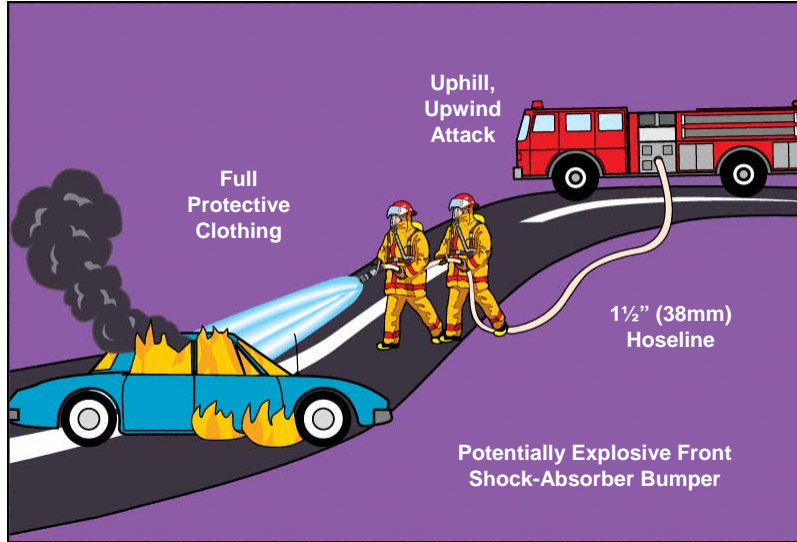
It will be the goal of keeping 4-5 fresh vehicles at the training center at any given time. When a company has a specific training session planned requiring vehicles, they are to be marked accordingly. This marking will essentially “reserve” the vehicle for that company. However, it needs to be understood that obtaining these vehicles is becoming more and more challenging as the demand for recycling has increased. Vehicles placed at our facility are not making money for the salvage yards.

Supplemental information pertaining to vehicle fire training is provided below for review and used as applicable.

L. Siefken  
April 2012

VS 14-19

## TACTICS FOR VEHICLE FIRES



**IV** ESSENTIALS



## VEHICLE FIRE SOPs & GUIDELINES

TS 14-18a

- Wear full PPE.
- Use at least a 1½-inch (38 mm) hoseline.
- Deploy a backup line as soon as possible.
- Use portable extinguishers for small engine-compartment fires.
- Extinguish ground fires around or under vehicle first; then attack remaining fire in vehicle.
- Avoid standing in front of potentially explosive front shock absorber bumpers on newer vehicles.

**IV** ESSENTIALS



## VEHICLE FIRE

TS 14-18b

### SOPs & GUIDELINES (cont.)

- Apply large amounts of water or Class D extinguishing agents to burning combustible metals.
- Exercise caution when first applying water to combustible metals because the fire will greatly intensify.
- Never assume that private vehicles are without extraordinary hazards.
- Use a piercing nozzle or make an opening between hood and fender with a Halligan tool for engine compartment fires that must be knocked down before hood can be opened.



## VEHICLE FIRE

TS 14-18c

### SOPs & GUIDELINES (cont.)

- Approach passenger compartment fires with a wide fog stream from a corner of the vehicle; once entry has been made, use a medium fog pattern in a circular motion.
- Control vehicle undercarriage fires using the most appropriate method.
- Begin overhaul as soon as possible after the fire has been controlled.



# POSSIBLE PRIVATE VEHICLE HAZARDS

Saddle Fuel Tanks

Propane Tanks

Explosives

Hazardous Materials



# CONTROLLING VEHICLE UNDERCARRIAGE FIRES

- Use a straight stream from a distance.
- When close proximity to vehicle is possible, deflect a straight stream from the pavement to hit the undercarriage.
- Open the hood and direct a stream through the engine compartment.



## VEHICLE FIRE OVERHAUL

- Check for extension and hidden fires.
- Disconnect the battery.
- Secure the air bags (Side-Impact Protection System or Supplemental Restraint System).
- Cool fuel tanks, and intact sealed components.
- Be alert to the hazards associated with vehicle fires.



## HAZARDS ASSOCIATED WITH VEHICLE FIRES

- Catalytic converter — Can act as an ignition source to grass and other fuels under vehicle
- Interior components — Most are plastic and give off toxic gases
- Air bag (SRS or SIPS) — Could deploy from steering wheel, dashboard, or floor of vehicle
- Shock-absorber-type bumpers — May become a projectile and be shot from vehicle with great force



## HAZARDS ASSOCIATED <sup>TS 14-22b</sup> WITH VEHICLE FIRES (cont.)

- Hollow driveshafts — May become a projectile and be shot from vehicle with great force
- Hatchback supports — May become a projectile and be shot from vehicle with great force
- Tires — May blow as a result of pressure buildup
- Saddle fuel tanks — May explode
- Alternative fuel tanks — May explode
- Hazardous materials — May contaminate area
- Military vehicle — May carry munitions or other hazardous cargo

