



VEHICLE FIRE RESPONSE

SCOPE

This guideline shall apply to all operational members of the Stoney Point Fire Department and shall be adhered to by all operational members.

PURPOSE

To establish the procedures for an efficient vehicle fire response by Stoney Point Fire Department.

DEFINITIONS

Guideline - a general rule, principle, outline of a policy

Personal Protective Equipment – (PPE) gear worn by personnel to protect them from hazards (medical PPE, structural PPE, rescue PPE) can include gloves, masks, and garments

Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus – (SCBA) device worn by firefighters, and others to provide breathable air in an immediately dangerous to life or health atmosphere

Shall - indicates a mandatory requirement

Vehicle - any motorized vehicle which is designed for transportation

GUIDELINES

Vehicle fires pose a unique threat for occupants and emergency responders. The fuel for most vehicles is highly combustible as are the materials that comprise the passenger compartment. There may be additional hazards posed by items transported inside the vehicle, such as firearms, fireworks, hazardous chemicals, and controlled substances. Additionally, vehicles may pose an exposure hazard to a structure or field. Personnel should not underestimate the potential for the incident to escalate into a larger problem.

Response

A vehicle fire is typically a single Engine response. Any additional units shall respond routine traffic unless upgraded by the Incident Commander. Upon arrival, care shall be taken in the proper positioning of the apparatus to ensure Firefighter safety. A 360-degree survey shall be conducted to identify any additional hazards, exposures, and life hazards. If nothing is showing, the crew shall investigate to ensure there are no threats. Dispatch shall be notified of the scene size up and that Command has been established. Traffic cones shall be emplaced to increase the safety of incident personnel. If fire or smoke is present, an attack line shall be deployed to begin extinguishment operations.

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Fire Suppression

If fire or smoke is present an aggressive fire attack shall be initiated, while maintaining Firefighter safety. All personnel shall be wearing full Personal Protective Ensemble and Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus, breathing air throughout the duration of the incident. Attack shall be made from upwind and uphill if the situation permits to prevent run off or toxic smoke from affecting the Engine crew. Protect any exposures and request additional resources as necessary to stabilize the incident. The crew shall gain entry to any compartment that may have fire present, trunk, engine compartment and passenger compartment. **Fire Attack crew shall maintain a safe distance while extinguishing the fire and avoid bumpers, airbags, batteries, tires, shock absorbers, and fuel tanks as they may explode without warning.** Avoid unnecessary damage to the vehicle and its contents and conduct a thorough salvage and overhaul operation to attempt to determine the cause of the fire.

If the vehicle is in close proximity to a structure, protect the exposure, call for additional resources and attempt to safely move the vehicle from the structure. If unable to move the vehicle, continue with exposure protection and extinguishment operations until complete.

Law Enforcement

Notify the appropriate Law Enforcement agency if the vehicle fire appears suspicious in nature. Fayetteville PD within Fayetteville limits and Cumberland County Sheriffs within the County limits. Notify the North Carolina Highway Patrol if the vehicle is located on a state-maintained road or right of way. Be suspicious and wary of signs of criminal activity.

Safety

Practice traffic safety alongside of roadways, use apparatus positioning and traffic cones to create a safe operation area. Vehicle fires are a hazardous environment, utilize all protective gear. Use common sense and avoid dangerous situations. Use caution around electric vehicle batteries as they produce toxic gases and may explode.

References

NFPA 1001

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