



GALENA FIRE DEPARTMENT
Standard Operating Guideline

MOTOR VEHICLE FIRES

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Purpose: To establish criteria for managing motor vehicle fires including safety considerations, risk-benefit management, and firefighting tactics.

Establish Incident Command and maintain a designated fire ground radio channel.

Stop traffic as necessary to protect firefighters on scene with vehicle parking, flashers, cones, and with the assistance of the responding law enforcement agency.

Size up the scene and determine equipment and personnel needed based upon the situation, the hazards involved, and any potential exposures.

Ensure that all personnel involved in firefighting, stabilization, extrication, and hazardous materials are wearing full PPE, with reflective traffic vests, as needed, and SCBA as the situation dictates.

Determine if the vehicle is battery-operated or other type of hybrid that requires additional resources, or a different mode of extinguishment.

Be aware of air bag deployment, airbag sensors, and material involved in fire that is not compatible with water as an extinguishing agent.

Secure and shut down the power to the vehicle by disconnecting the battery.

If human life is involved, approach with caution to facilitate extrication as ordered by the Incident Commander. If no human life is involved, minimize the risk associated with fire extinguishment, spills and leaks, and vehicle stabilization.

If live, or questionably live, power lines are down or threatening to fall, establish a danger zone one full span past the intact pole. If unknown – assume the power lines are live.

Establish hot, warm and cold zones with a hot zone of at least a 100 feet radius, and establish a staging area, if necessary, for coordination of fire equipment or EMS units. Allow no one within the warm and hot zones except working firefighters in full PPE.

Place firefighting apparatus outside the hot zone, preferably in front of and at least 100 feet away from the burning vehicle(s), and away from the fuel tank on the burning vehicle. Attack with 1 ¾" lines or as ordered by the Officer, who may establish multiple lines for extinguishment and exposures, backup and safety, as well as foam application. Extinguish the fire with a minimum risk to Firefighters.

When accessible, check the rear compartment/trunk for firearms, explosives and other hazardous materials.

Overhaul the vehicle and check surrounding area for fire spread and fluid leaks or spills that need to be addressed.

Assist with getting the roadway cleared of debris and opened to traffic once the scene is declared safe to do so by the Incident Commander.