

Sanoca Rural Fire District, Inc.
STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES

Emergency Operations

Fire Company Operations

Subject: Vehicle Fires

Revised: April 05, 2003

PURPOSE

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

POLICY

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

PROCEDURE

- A. Make attempt to park apparatus uphill, upwind.
- B. Transmit radio report on conditions.
- C. Size up should include exact location and type of vehicle.
- D. Determine if additional assistance is needed.
- E. Obtain police assistance for traffic control if needed.
- F. If involved vehicle is a common carrier, determine type of cargo. Advise placard info if applicable.

SAFETY

- A. Wear protective clothing as per Protective Clothing Policy.
- B. Consider traffic conditions and be conscious of traffic hazardous to personnel.
- C. Consider the flow of spilled fuel (burning or non-burning).
- D. Use adequate size hose lines, appropriate portable extinguishers, and/or appropriate type foam, as needed. It is recommended that the preconnected "foam line"

(150' of 1 1/2 hose below the pump panel with foam aspirator Attached) be used on all vehicle fires for quick knockdown.

The Foam "Pro-Pack" may also be used for small fires or after knockdown.

- E. Be alert for possible explosion of fuel system.
- F. Be on guard for explosion of pressurized "energy absorbing" bumpers and shock absorbers.
- G. Be mindful that batteries may serve as an ignition source, produce electrical shock or explode.
- H. Remember that the suspension systems on many buses may collapse to within four (4) inches of ground level when exposed to fire.
- I. Remember that most motorhomes, campers and mobile canteens have built-in LPG tanks on board.
- J. Vehicles that have air bags and the air bag has not deployed should be approached with caution. Personnel should not position themselves between the bag and seat while the air bag system is armed.
- K. Vehicles with armed, undeployed air bags should not have any tools or other objects placed in their vicinity due to those objects becoming flying objects.

OPERATIONS

- A. Consider life safety.
- B. Consider water supply availability.
- C. Consider slope of terrain.
- D. Determine type of fuel which may be involved:
 - 1. Gasoline.
 - 2. Diesel.
 - 3. Propane.
 - 4. Other.
- E. Consider fuel system -- newer vehicles have pressurized fuel systems.
- F. Coordinate with law enforcement personnel at the scene.
- G. Breathing apparatus shall be necessary for operations on all vehicle fires, inside and outside the vehicle.
- H. Be prepared for tire fires to re-ignite.

POST EMERGENCY

- A. Investigate the cause of fire.
- B. Cooperate with law enforcement investigation.
- C. Insure that vehicle is in a fire safe condition prior to towing service removal of same.
- D. It is now the responsibility of the fire department to complete a fire report for all vehicle fires. Highway Patrol did this in the past, but has now changed. Be sure to locate vehicle plate number, year model, and V.I.N. Communications (911) will now advise ownership information for fire departments. For vehicle fires not on state maintained highways, the Wilson Co Sheriffs Dept may complete an incident report also.

