

This guideline provides North Zone Agencies procedures for operating at a vehicle fire. The purpose of this guideline is to assure the efficient and safe extinguishment of fire involving automobiles and other light duty vehicles.

PERSONNEL PROTECTION:

Full protective clothing and breathing apparatus are to be worn by all company personnel involved in fire attack and overhaul operation.

APPARATUS APPROACH AND POSITIONING:

Apparatus responding to a vehicle fire shall be positioned with the following guidelines in mind:

- Uphill and upwind - This will prevent burning fuel from running toward the apparatus and will keep smoke contaminants away from the apparatus and operator.
- Apparatus should be positioned at least 100 feet from the involved vehicle to provide a safety zone.
- If possible, apparatus should be positioned so company personnel will be protected from approaching traffic.

FIRE ATTACK:

For a totally involved vehicle, a minimum of an 1 ¾" attack line is to be used. If necessary, use back-up lines.

If possible, the vehicle should be approached at a 45° degree angle so that company personnel are not in a direct line with the front or rear bumpers of the vehicle.

As soon as possible, the wheels of the involved vehicle should be chocked to prevent movement during fire attack and overhaul. In addition, the electrical system should be secured as soon as possible by disconnecting the battery cables. Always disconnect the negative or ground cable first.

OVERHAUL:

If the Company Officer suspects the fire is suspicious in nature, then overhaul should be accomplished with the preservation of evidence in mind. Agency-specific guidelines for investigation of a crime should be followed. The safety of North Zone personnel remains the number one priority during overhaul operations.

POTENTIAL HAZARDS:

During fire attack and overhaul, there are potential hazards, which could cause serious injury or death to company personnel. All personnel should be aware of the following now inclusive potential hazards.

- Shock absorbing bumpers that may explode and separate from the vehicle.
- Multiple or auxiliary fuel tanks.
- Sealed driveshafts that may explode when heated.
- Multiple batteries.
- Propane or LNG fuel tanks.
- High-pressure hose connected to air conditioning equipment.
- Weakened hood springs.
- Unknown contents.
- Air bags.
- Hood and hatch struts.

Personnel should use extreme caution when opening passenger and engine compartments. Flashover may occur when the compartment is ventilated. Always have a charged hose line available before opening these areas. Attack option may be the use of a piercing nozzle.

ELECTRIC VEHICLE:

CNG VEHICLES: