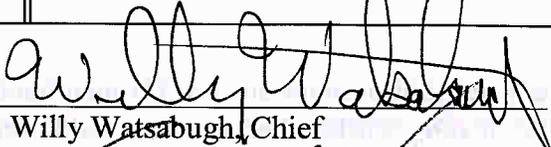


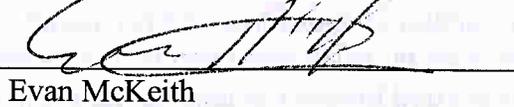


Jackson Hole Fire/EMS Operations Manual

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Title: Vehicle Fire Fighting
Division: 16
Article: 7
Revised: 5-17-11
Pages: 2

PURPOSE

This procedure is intended to provide guidelines for the extinguishment of vehicle fires. This procedure applies to automobiles, light duty trucks, medium trucks, tractor-trailers, campers, buses, construction equipment, motorcycles and other on and off road vehicles. This guideline does not apply to vehicles involved in hazardous materials accidents or to vehicle fires inside of structures.

SECTION I – Size-up and Safety

Upon arrival on the scene, the member in charge will establish IC and size-up the situation, informing the communication center of the following:

- Vehicle Type Involved
- Hazards
- Exposures
- Extrication
- If Water is Available.

Special attention should be made to identify any and all placards and/or labels that may provide essential information to the incident commander for the safety of all persons involved. The engine will, if possible, position uphill and upwind from the vehicle(s). The engine should be positioned approximately 100 feet from the vehicle.

All personnel should be in full protective clothing including self-contained breathing apparatus. Caution should always be exercised because of the possibility of hazardous materials. A Safety Officer should be assigned on working vehicle fires to monitor traffic and other potential hazards. Firefighters will avoid the front and rear bumpers of vehicles whenever possible. Be prepared for more than one explosion of a fuel tank.

Evacuation of the area may be necessary if the fire cannot be controlled in a reasonable amount of time. Adequate law enforcement personnel must be present to control traffic hazards. Firefighters present that are not critical to the operation should stay out of the roadway in a safe location. Firefighters not in SCBA should don reflective safety vests when operating or assisting near the roadways.

SECTION II – Rescue

Vehicles will be searched for the presence of persons with special attention paid to small children or infants. Any persons found will be “protected in place” until they can be safely removed and emergency medical personnel can begin treatment.

SECTION III – Fire Control

Fire Control will be made with an offensive attack using at a minimum a 1-3/4 inch hand line or larger. The attack will be made from the unburned side of the vehicle when possible. Additional lines will be used as required for the control of the fire or protection of exposures and personnel. Class A foam may be more effective for extinguishing vehicle fires than by using plain water. Depending on the vehicle involved, additional engines or tenders may be requested because of limited water supplies on highways or for additional personnel. At least one hand line will remain operational until the vehicle is removed from the scene or rendered safe for vehicles that cannot be moved immediately. Batteries should be disconnected and other possible ignition sources eliminated to prevent the ignition of flammable vapors or chemicals

SECTION III – Fire Control, continued

The hybrid and alternative fuel vehicles present a new challenge for firefighters. Identification of this type of vehicle is critical to safe fire ground operations. The high voltage batteries should be disconnected as soon as possible if they are accessible. Vehicles powered by natural gas or propane create problems from the compressed gases and their containers. Isolate these fuels when safe to do so.

SECTION IV – Overhaul

Caution will be taken during overhaul procedures so that the origin and cause of the fire may be determined. If there is reason to believe that there may be victims located within the vehicle, extreme caution should be used to ensure that the victims' remains are not disturbed.