



Nelson County Emergency Services Council
Nelson County, Virginia

***Nelson County Emergency Services Council
Standard Operating Guideline***

Subject:	Vehicle Fires
Reference Number:	OPS 02-008
Effective Date:	1-May-17
Last Revision Date:	
Signature of Approval	David Graves, President

Purpose:

To provide a means of extinguishing vehicle fires while maintaining appropriate safety thresholds and considering traffic operations.

Procedure:

Car fires are full of dangerous toxins and stored energy. Firefighters must wear turnout gear as specified in OPS 02-009. This shall include SCBA.

When possible, park apparatus uphill and upwind. If the involved vehicle is a commercial vehicle, determine contents as quickly as possible and follow the guidance in the DOT Emergency Response Guide.

Vehicles on fire can typically roll. As soon as possible, safely chock the wheels. If possible, apply the vehicle parking brake.

Be alert for possible explosion of fuel system, pressurized shocks, hatch-lift devices, etc. All alternative fuel vehicles present special hazards. Be aware of these hazards and/or keep your distance.

Look Up! Vehicle fires can cause power lines to melt and drop. Vegetation uphill of the fire will also frequently ignite.

If the fire is in the engine compartment, consider the amount of water you use prior to gaining entry. Spraying water on the hood is typically of little value.

RVs and Motor Coaches have air-ride systems which if breached will allow the vehicle to drop within just inches of the ground. Never reach under these vehicles.

Vehicle fires are frequently arson. Be alert for suspicious items and alert law enforcement as appropriate.

Assure the fire is completely extinguished prior to towing. Foam is recommended.