

Vehicle Fires

Facts:

- U.S. fire departments respond to an average of 287,000 vehicle fires per year. These fires cause an estimated 480 civilian deaths, 1,525 civilian injuries and \$1.3 billion in direct property damage annually
- Older teens and young adults are the age groups at highest risk of vehicle fire-related death
- Three-quarters of highway vehicle fires resulted from mechanical or electrical failures or malfunctions. Collisions caused only 3% of these fires but 58% of the associated deaths
- One-third of non-fatal highway vehicle fire injuries occur when civilians attempt to fight the fire themselves

Rules of the Road:

STOP: If possible, pull to the side of the road and turn off the ignition. Put the vehicle in park and set the emergency brake

KEEP THE HOOD CLOSED: Opening the hood allows more oxygen to feed the fire

GET OUT: Make sure everyone gets out of the vehicle safely. Move away from the vehicle to a safe location. Try to stay upwind from the smoke and uphill to avoid any leaking gasoline or fluids

CALL 911: Once you are in a safe position, call for help. Do not try to fight the fire yourself . Vehicle fires can present a challenge even for properly trained and equipped firefighters due to the presence of flammable liquids (especially newer gasoline/alcohol blends), synthetic materials (which burn extremely hot), corrosive materials (like battery acid), and explosion hazards (like compressed air cylinders for air bags, pistons for trunks/hoods, and tires)

Proper maintenance can help prevent vehicle fires, so be sure to follow your manufacturers recommended service schedule. Remember to drive safely and never operate your vehicle if you suspect a mechanical problem.

-Source: NFPA 2012

www.greentreefire.com

