

	<b>Queen Anne's County Fire &amp; EMS Commission Operations Manual</b>	No. 02.07
	<b>Vehicle Fires</b>	Effective Date: December 1, 2001
		Revised Date: November 5, 2015

**I. SCOPE**

- A. This policy applies to all Queen Anne's County fire service personnel.

**II. PURPOSE**

- A. To establish guidelines for vehicle fires and to insure safety for all firefighters and emergency personnel.

**III. RESPONSIBILITY**

- A. All personnel affiliated with a Queen Anne's County Fire Department will be responsible for ensuring strict adherence to this policy.

**IV. PROCEDURE**

A. Size Up:

1. Upon arrival, the unit officer must perform a size up and give a status report. The incident commander must account for all occupants if the vehicle was occupied at the time.
2. The unit officer should assume or pass command.
3. The incident shall be managed according to the County's Incident Command System.
4. If additional resources are needed the IC should request them.
5. If the vehicle was in motion at the time of the fire, request law enforcement.
6. Survey the scene for additional hazards, leaking gasoline, shock absorbing bumpers, etc.

7. If the driver is with the vehicle the IC should acquire if there is any type of hazards inside the vehicle.

B. Apparatus Positioning:

1. Engine should be parked uphill and upwind of the vehicle, diagonally from the front or rear of the vehicle if possible.
2. Engine should be close enough to allow for mobility of attack lines, yet far enough away insuring safety of the apparatus.
3. Try to avoid driving through any debris or fluids.

C. Attack Procedures:

1. 1 ½” or 1 ¾” attack lines are usually sufficient to place a vehicle fire under control and provide for the safety of the attack crew.
2. If possible, approach the vehicle at a 45 degree angle to avoid the possibility of shock absorbing bumpers, which might explode.
3. Approach from upwind and uphill if possible.
4. Attack all ground fire’s first.
5. If the vehicle is not 100% involved, try to contain the fire to the area of involvement and minimize damage to the vehicle from fire suppression activities.
6. If the fire is contained in the engine compartment and if feasible, attack may be made with a dry chemical extinguisher.
7. AFFF or foam may be used to control flammable liquid fires due to broken fuel or gas lines.

D. Safety Procedures:

1. All personnel involved in fire and rescue operations will wear full protective clothing and SCBA.
2. Avoid fuel tank area when possible.
3. Watch for back draft possibility when opening up the vehicle for initial attack.
4. Chock the wheels so the vehicle can’t move especially if on a hill.
5. Always remember you are responsible for the safety of your crew and bystanders.

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William H. Faust, Chairman  
Queen Anne's County Fire & EMS Commission