

# VEHICLE FIRES

## KEY CONSIDERATIONS:

- Park uphill and upwind whenever possible.
- Provide control measures to prevent the vehicle from rolling.
- Approach from the corners.
- Apply water from a distance to start, no need to walk up right away in many cases.
- What is in the vehicle? Be ready for anything.
- Always be thinking about struts (bumpers, hoods, trunks, seats and elsewhere)
- Large vehicles, RV's and semi-trucks – think about cargo-load and water supply needs – order additional companies or a tender early.

## PROTOCOL:

1. While enroute consider checking your MDC / Smart Phone App for vehicle info (fuel tank location, battery location, other hazards, etc.) when vehicle info is available.
2. Request law for traffic. Consider ODOT Quick Response crew.
3. Provide an Arrival Report and Follow-Up Radio Report.
4. **Unless you have a life at risk or an immediate exposure problem you can generally slow-down and approach cautiously. Well involved vehicles generally offer little to save.**
5. Be ready for the vehicle to roll, chock it when safely possible.
6. Apply water from a distance to cool the vehicle before approaching.
7. Shut off the vehicle when possible.
8. Complete extinguishment.
9. Complete Fire Investigation or call for On Call Investigator.

## Hazards to Consider:

- Exploding tires
- Running flammable liquids fire
- Alternative fuel sources (LP, LNG, Ethanol, Electric) **(look for shutoffs)**
- Exotic metals (white smoke and white flames) (generally violent reactions when water is applied)
- Cargo-load

## Tactics to Consider:

- Use of piercing nozzles
- Use of rotary saws or hydraulic tools for engine/trunk access
- Open the trunk / passenger compartment. (Check for life, salvage opportunities, fire extension)
- Foam