TOLEDO FIRE & RESCUE DEPARTMENT

C-10 Automobile Fire

Emergency Manual

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Policy/Procedure

Clothing appropriate for the incident shall be worn at all times, including full turnout gear, goggles or safety glasses, and reflective vests. Members responding to vehicular accidents and automobile fires shall leave the station in full turnout gear. After a quick evaluation of safety concerns, the Incident Commander may allow members to remove their turnout coat and wear the reflective vest exclusive of the turnout coat. SCBA's shall be utilized when visible smoke is present.

1. Fire

1. The first arriving unit shall establish Command and give a condition report upon arrival.

2. If a fire involves engine or trunk areas, fire personnel shall be ready to apply extinguishing agent before the hood or trunk is opened. If the fire is in the engine area, fire personnel shall try to apply agent through the grill before opening the hood. If the fire is in the trunk space, fire personnel may consider applying agent through an opening provided by breaking out the taillight, or utilization of a piercing nozzle.

3. Fire personnel should utilize a combination of water spray and dry chemical for gasoline fires. (Use of foam should be considered.) Joint use of foam and dry chemical should be avoided, as dry chemical powder will break down the foam blanket.

4. If fire has entered the passenger area, firefighters shall remove and overhaul all involved upholstery.

5. Fire personnel shall utilize water streams to cool tires exposed to fire.

6. If gas tank is involved or exposed, fire personnel shall provide protective cooling with narrow (30°)

fog spray application.

7. Fire personnel shall disconnect the battery of any car where a fire involves the engine area.

8. The possibility exists that the vehicle may be fueled by hybrid power sources. Fire personnel shall follow accepted practices to mitigate these emergencies.

2. Airbags

1. Airbags employ class “C” explosives to produce large volumes of non flammable gas to inflate the airbag. Fire personnel should direct hose streams from reasonable, safe distances. Fire personnel shall not enter the passenger area to operate an extinguisher or nozzle.

See Also:

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