

Fire Safety for Vehicles



Agency vehicles are essential to daily operations, but they also carry fire risks due to fuel, electrical systems, and mechanical components. Understanding and practicing fire safety is critical to protecting lives, equipment, and public property. This guide outlines key fire prevention practices, emergency response steps, and maintenance tips to reduce fire hazards in agency vehicles.

COMMON VEHICLE FIRE HAZARDS

Understanding the most frequent causes of vehicle fires is the first step in preventing them. The following hazards are especially important to watch for during daily operations and inspections:

- Fuel leaks or spills
- Overheated engines or brakes
- Electrical system malfunctions
- Improper storage of flammable materials
- Neglected maintenance or inspections

FIRE PREVENTION BEST PRACTICES

To reduce the risk of vehicle fires, follow these operational safety measures:

Conduct Pre-Trip Inspections: Check for fuel or oil leaks, damaged wiring, and signs of overheating.

Maintain Clean Vehicles: Remove trash, oily rags, and debris that could ignite.

Avoid Idling for Long Periods: Especially in hot weather or with heavy loads.

Store Flammables Safely: Use approved containers and secure them properly.

Report Issues Immediately: Any signs of smoke, burning smells, or electrical problems should be reported and addressed before operating the vehicle.

FIRE PREVENTION READINESS

Regular maintenance is one of the most effective ways to prevent vehicle fires:

- Follow scheduled service intervals
- Inspect electrical and fuel systems regularly
- Replace worn belts, hoses, and filters
- Keep fire extinguisher inspections up to date

WHAT TO DO IF A VEHICLE FIRE OCCURS

1. **Pull Over Safely:** Stop the vehicle, turn off the engine, and engage the parking brake.
2. **Evacuate Immediately:** Move all occupants at least 100 feet away from the vehicle.
3. **Call 911:** Report the fire and provide your location.
4. **Use the Extinguisher (If Safe):** Only attempt to extinguish small fires if you are trained, and it is safe to do so.
5. **Do Not Open the Hood:** Flames may flare up if oxygen is introduced.