Bath Township Fire Department			Standard Operating Guideline	
Section **Operations**	**Referral No.** **O-O6**	**Subject:** **Vehicle Fire Response**	**Date Issued** **1/03**	**Date Revised** **9/10**

Purpose:

- To provide guidelines for safe response to vehicle fires and defines the response plan to vehicle fire incidents.

Scope:

- This standard operating guideline shall apply to all personnel.

Responsibilities:

- Officer
  - Ensure that personnel respond properly.
  - Provide direction based on the Incident Management System.
- Personnel
  - All personnel have the responsibility of following the direction of Incident Command at an emergency scene.
  - All personnel have the responsibility of wearing proper safety equipment and operating in a safe manner.

Response Guidelines:

- **Safety is always our first priority**
- **A "Limited Response" shall be initiated for Vehicle Fire Incidents**
- Obtain any information that the dispatcher received from the caller

*** Respond Tanker 1303**

* Upon arrival on scene, transmit a brief size-up of the scene (Brief Initial Report) and establish command, if not already established.

  * When possible stage **upwind and uphill** of the vehicle

*** Respond Rescue 1309**

  * Stage out of the way of fire scene operations
  * Establish a safe work zone with the use of traffic cones and sign.
  * Remain in an area where tools and lighting are readily accessible

*** Respond a Medic Unit**

  * Stage in close proximity to scene and in a location where the unit may leave if the situation arises.

* A fire-report and Origin & Cause determination shall be completed while on-scene.

Tactical Guidelines:

- The minimum level of PPE is full PPE and breathing air from SCBA.
- The minimum size of hoseline is 1 ¾ " handline.

- Wheels should be chocked to prevent the vehicle from rolling.
- The use of flares by fire and police should be used with extreme caution due to flammable liquids and vapors.
- **Apparatus should be positioned to provide for scene safety by angling the apparatus, and wheels, away from operations.**
- Early consideration should be given to additional water supply.
- A working fire involving the interior of the vehicle passenger compartment will damage the vehicle and consideration should be given toward a safe and appropriate fire attack.
- When patients are trapped in the vehicle, first water should be directed into the passenger compartment to protect the patients and allow rescue.
- Special consideration must be given to vehicles powered by Liquid Petroleum Gas (LPG). Pressure relief valves can create blowtorches and failure of the pressure relief valve can present a BLEVE danger. If there is flame impingement on the fuel tank, take action to cool the fuel tank.
- Well-sealed interiors of vehicles present the potential for backdraft. Use caution when opening doors or breaking windows. Have a charged line ready prior to entry.
- Do not remove the gas cap as the tank may be pressurized.
- Fires involving the trunk or cargo area should be approached with extreme caution. Contents may include toxic, flammable or other hazardous materials. Expect the worst!!
- Be aware that vehicles may drop several inches if the suspension fails.
- Be aware of energy absorbing bumpers and gas lift cylinders. Failure of these can create a projectile or may cause trunks or hatches to open with extreme force. Approach from a flank position.
- Burning combustible metals can initially increase in intensity but large quantities of water will cool them below their ignition temperature