

Annex J:

Fire Actions & Response

Fires on Vehicles

- **No attempt should be made to extinguish a MAJOR FIRE without assistance from the Emergency Services.**
 - If a fire breaks out on a vehicle, the driver should;
 - Remove the vehicle to safe place, IF SAFE TO DO SO.
 - Stop the engine.
 - Turn off the battery master switch.
 - Attack the fire using vehicle fire extinguishers, IF SAFE TO DO SO.
- **Seek assistance as quickly as possible from Emergency Services.**
- **Keep the general public away from the area.**
- **Report the incident to depot as soon as possible.**

Portable Fire Extinguishers

A hand extinguisher is effective only in the early stages of a fire and is of little use if the fire has spread to a large quantity of combustible material. For this reason, it is important that hand extinguishers be stored where they are quickly accessible, without moving tools or other truck equipment.

It is essential that drivers check the extinguishers on a daily basis to ensure they are still actually on the vehicle, not discharged within the holder and has the appropriate working pressure on the gauge. It is also good to regularly tilt the extinguisher upside down to ensure contents have not gone solid.

Fire in Cab or Engine

Action

- Use dry powder extinguishers. If they are not available, use earth or sand, **DO NOT USE WATER.**

Fire involving Product in Tank or Fuel Tank

Action

- Use dry powder. Employ a sweeping action from an upwind position.

Fire Whilst Loading

Action

- **STOP** the product flow
- **FOLLOWS** the laid down fire emergency procedures for the specific loading terminal. This procedure will be contained within initial induction and reviewed during refresher training.

Fire Whilst On Route

Action

- **MOVE** the vehicle off the road and away from buildings and trees, or other sources of ignition, whenever possible
- **SHUTS OFF** the engine
- **Only if safe to do so FIGHTS FIRE** as quickly as possible with the portable extinguishers.
- **ASK 3RD PARTY TO CALL** the fire department. Do not enter cab to attempt to use the truck communication equipment if vehicle on fire.
- **REMAIN** a safe distance away from the vehicle.
- **SIGNAL** to other road users to avoid the area of danger.
- **NOTIFY** your depot manager as soon as possible.
- **DO NOT DRIVE** the vehicle until authorized to do so after the fire has been extinguished.

Fire Whilst Making A Delivery (Vent or Fill Pipe)

Action

- **STOP** product flow. Fires from an underground tank vent can be extinguished easily. Once the product flow has been stopped, you can use a blanket or similar object to cover the vent, or by utilizing the onboard portable extinguisher. **Please note this should only be done if safe to do so.**
- If the fire involves the delivery vehicle, driver should not move it, but immediately fight the fire with the portable onboard extinguisher. **Only if safe to do so.**
- If the fire involves objects other than the delivery vehicle, such as 3rd party vehicles or buildings, the driver should close valves, disconnect hoses and move the delivery vehicle to a safe place. **Only if safe to do so.**
- Once in a safe place and out of danger notify your depot manager of the incident and await further instruction.

Fire involving Tyres and Wheels/Hubs

Action

- **FIRSTLY USE WATER**, if available or use dry powder in short bursts to control. Be prepared for re-ignition if hub or wheel is red hot.

Tyre fires usually start inside of the tyre, usually caused by excess heat generated by driving too fast or for a long distance on a flat or soft tyre. Tyre fires have been known to ignite as much as an hour after a vehicle has stopped. A smoking tyre is often mistakenly assumed to be caused by overheated brakes. Tyre fires are difficult to extinguish and unless properly handled, may re-ignite after one thinks that the fire is out. Water is the best extinguishing agent because of its cooling effect, soaking the tyre thoroughly.

If water is not available and the tyre has burst into flames, the driver should use the fire extinguisher in short bursts, long enough to extinguish the flames. If flames reappear, another burst of extinguisher should be used. The driver should continue with this procedure until the tyre is cooled and flames do not reappear. Properly used, the vehicle extinguishers can control a tyre fire or keep it from spreading until help can arrive or the tyre can be removed from the vehicle.

Again with all fires we should only utilise the onboard extinguishers **if safe to do so**. If deemed unsafe move away from the vehicle and contact the emergency services then your depot manager.

Reporting Fires

- All fires must be reported to Management as soon as possible, so that the cause can be fully investigated. The appropriate incident forms must be completed on return to the depot, whilst the details of the incident remain fresh in the mind. Company incident forms are available from the office.