



“Huffy and Friends”
Tulsa Firefighter’s Educational Clowns
4306 South Peoria, Box 911, Tulsa, OK 74105
Hot Line Cell: (918) 693-3376 Fax: (918) 622-0833
E-mail: huffytheclown@cox.net
Web Site: www.tfdclowns.com



N.F.P.A. Motor Vehicle Fire Safety

During 2004, U.S. public fire departments responded to an estimated 266,500 highway-type vehicle fires. These fires claimed 520 lives and caused \$969 million in direct property damage. Highway vehicles include cars, trucks, motorcycles and other vehicles commonly driven on roads or highways.

Download a free copy of NFPA's [Vehicle Fire Trends and Patterns report](#) (PDF, 377 KB).

Facts and Figures

One (17%) of every six reported fires involves a highway-type vehicle and 13% of all civilian fire deaths.

On average, more than 30 highway vehicle fires were reported per hour.

In 2004, more people died from highway vehicle fires than from apartment fires. Three times as many vehicle fires were reported as apartment fires.

Cars and other passenger vehicles account for the vast majority of highway vehicle fires and associated losses. In 1999-2002, only 13% of highway vehicle fire actually occurred on highways; 37% occurred on streets, roads or driveways, and 15% were in parking lots.

More than two-thirds of highway vehicle fires resulted from mechanical or electrical failures or malfunctions. Collisions or rollovers caused only 3% of these fires but 57% of the associated deaths.

Motor vehicles contain multiple gallons of highly flammable gasoline and other combustible liquids, including motor oil, power steering fluid, transmission fluid and brake fluid. Leakage of these fluids is the leading item first ignited in highway vehicle fires (1999-2002).

Vehicle maintenance is crucial to preventing vehicle fires. The American Automobile Association offers the following tips. [Visit the AAA Web site](#) or call +1 800 AAA-HELP for more information .

Have your vehicles inspected at least annually by a trained, professional technician.

Watch for fluid leaks under vehicles, cracked or blistered hoses, or wiring that is loose, has exposed metal or has cracked insulation. Have any of these conditions inspected and repaired as soon as possible.

Be alert to changes in the way your vehicle sounds when running, or to a visible plume of exhaust coming from the tailpipe. A louder than usual exhaust tone, smoke coming from the tailpipe or a backfiring exhaust could mean problems or damage to the high-temperature exhaust and emission control system on the vehicle. Have vehicles inspected and repaired as soon as possible if exhaust or emission control problems are suspected.

Avoid smoking. If you must smoke, use your vehicle ashtray. Drive according to posted speed limits and other traffic rules. Remain alert to changing road conditions at all times.

If a fire occurs:

Stop – If possible, pull to the side of the road and turn off the ignition. Pulling to the side makes it possible for everyone to get out of the vehicle safely. Turn off the ignition to shut off the electric current and stop the flow of gasoline. Put the vehicle in park or set the emergency brake; you don't want the vehicle to move after you leave it. Keep the hood closed because more oxygen can make the fire larger.

Get Out – Make sure everyone gets out of the vehicle. Then move at least 100 feet away. Keep traffic in mind and keep everyone together. There is not only danger from the fire, but also from other vehicles moving in the area.

Call for Help – Call 9-1-1 or the emergency number for your local fire department. Firefighters are specially trained to combat vehicle fires. Never return to the vehicle to attempt to fight the fire yourself. Vehicle fires can be tricky, even for firefighters.