

# FIRES: CAUSES, PREVENTION AND FIRE FIGHTING



Vehicle fires can cause damage and injury. It's important to be aware of their causes, how to prevent it from happening to you and on the proper procedure to extinguish fires.

## 1. Causes:

- Spilled fuel after a collision or the improper use of flares
- Underinflated tires
- Short circuit on the electrical system
- Driver smoking or improper fueling
- Flammable cargo (hazardous materials)

## 2. Prevention:

- **PTI:** make a complete pre-trip inspection and specifically check the electrical, fuel, exhaust and tires. Also verify your extinguisher is full.
- **En route inspection:** check your tires every time you stop for signs of heat
- **Fuel:** never smoke while fueling and be careful if you need to use your flares
- **Gauges:** check the vehicle gauges for signs of overheating.

## 3. Fire extinguishing:

- **Extinguisher:** make sure you know how to operate your extinguisher and that it's full. Also use the correct fire extinguisher for the type of fire. Water can be used on wood, paper, clothing etc but never use water on gasoline fire (it will spread) or an electrical fire (you can electrocute yourself).
- **Pull off the road:** park away from crowded areas, other vehicles, bushes or anything that could catch fire. Don't go to a truck stop or gas station!
- **Keep it contained:** don't let it spread. If the fire is in the engine turn off the truck and avoid opening the hood. Aim the extinguisher to the fire underneath the vehicle or through the radiator. If it's a cargo fire don't open the doors.
- **Stay away from the fire and prevent injury.** Try to aim the extinguisher towards the source or base of the fire, not the flames and Contact the authorities as soon as possible.

