

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES for Gasoline-Electric HYBRID VEHICLES

I. Overview

This Operational guideline identifies recommended practices for Fire Department personnel to address when confronted with a gasoline-electric hybrid vehicle crash or fire incident.

It shall be the goal of _____ Fire Department personnel arriving at the scene of a fire or crash-related incident involving a gasoline/electric hybrid vehicle to complete the seven-step hybrid vehicle “Lock Out – Tag Out” protocol. These essential actions should be accomplished as soon as practical after arrival and after completion of initial scene assessment and hazard control.

All responders should be aware of and fully understand the unique risks that personnel can potentially be exposed to when operating at a gasoline-electric hybrid vehicle incident.

Actions taken by responders should be in compliance with applicable manufacturer’s Emergency Response Guide for that specific hybrid vehicle.

II. First-Arriving FD Apparatus

Tactical Procedures:

Benchmarks are listed, based upon the Lock Out – Tag Out protocol, for the first-arriving fire department units at a gasoline-electric hybrid vehicle emergency incident. These benchmarks include;

- Identify vehicle as hybrid . . .
- Stabilize vehicle. . .
- Access passenger compartment . . .
- Shift gear selector/ parking brake lever...
- Turn ignition OFF...
- Check that Hybrid vehicle dash indicator light/gauge is shut down...
- Disconnect/shutdown 12-volt battery . . .

III. Incident Command Benchmarks

The initial-arriving FD officer and/or the Incident Commander must assure that efforts to complete the seven essential “Lock Out – Tag Out” benchmarks are initiated in addition to assigning personnel to accomplish actions necessary to effectively contain and control any additional challenge at the vehicle-related crash or fire incident.

Unless delegated to another responder, the initial company officer and/or Incident Commander shall serve as the Incident Safety Officer.