

Vehicle Fires

The following safety advice is for guidance only.

If in any doubt, get out, stay out and dial 999 to call the Fire and Rescue Service.

In the United Kingdom, more than 100,000 cars go up in flames each year, resulting in approximately 100 deaths. Approximately one in every twelve vehicles reported as stolen is set on fire. Whilst the majority of vehicle fires are deliberate, many fires break out as a result of poor maintenance and could be prevented.

In the event of a fire

- Stop the vehicle.
- Switch off the engine.
- Activate the bonnet release, but do not open.
- Get everyone out of the vehicle and stay well away.
- Dial 999 and ask for the Fire and Rescue Service.
- Warn oncoming traffic.
- Only if it is safe to do so, tackle the fire using a dry powder or foam extinguisher (BSEN3). If the fire is in the engine compartment, do not open the bonnet, but aim

the extinguisher through the radiator grille or under the edge of the bonnet.

- Never use water on an engine fire – it can short out electrics and spread burning petrol.
- If in any doubt, do not tackle the fire.

Prevention of fire

- Check wiring for signs of wear and damage.
- Check fuel line for wear and unreliable connections.
- Proper disposal of cigarettes and matches etc will minimise the risks they pose. Never leave matches or lighters within the reach of children.

Reduce the risk of your car being stolen and perhaps becoming an arson statistic

- Park your car in a well lit place.
- Remove the ignition key.
- Close all windows and lock all doors – don't forget to secure the sun roof.
- Hide property or take it with you.
- Report abandoned vehicles to the police or the local authority.

Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service

Endeavour House, Russell Road, Ipswich, IP1 2BX

Tel: 01473 260588

Email: fire.businesssupport@suffolk.gov.uk

