



*****For Immediate Release*****

Captain Deion Glover
Government and Media Relations

State Fire Marshal's Office
State Fire Marshal Chad Cross

Date: July 20, 2023

Contact: Deputy State Fire Marshal Gregory Baruso

Phone: (360) 596-3929

Email: fpbpio@wsp.wa.gov

Twitter: @WaFireMarshal

Vehicle Fire Safety

Olympia – In Washington State, from 2018 to 2022, the number of fire incidents involving vehicles was 17,565 for a total loss of over \$181 million. Vehicle fires accounted for over 13 percent of fire incidents reported between 2018 and 2022.

If your vehicle catches on fire, the State Fire Marshal's Office encourages you to take the following actions:

- Pull over as quickly as you can when it is safe to do so.
- Once you have stopped, turn off the engine.
- Get everyone out of the vehicle. Never return to a burning vehicle and do not try to fight the fire yourself.
- Call 911 immediately.
- If you think there is a fire under the hood or trunk, do not open it. This could cause the fire to grow and result in burn injuries.
- Move everyone at least 100 feet from the burning vehicle and well away from traffic.

To prevent a vehicle fire:

- Have your car serviced regularly by a qualified mechanic.
- Keep gas cans or propane tanks separated from passengers. Tightly seal and place them on a flat surface to make sure they stay upright.
- If you must put gas cans or propane tanks inside your vehicle, keep windows open to stop fumes from building up.
- Drive safely to avoid an accident.
- Follow manufacturer's instructions for using and charging electric vehicles. Install a residual current device with your electric vehicle charger. It will shut off the power if it detects an electrical fault.

For more information contact the State Fire Marshal's Office at (360) 596-3929

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The State Fire Marshal's Office is a Bureau of the Washington State Patrol, providing fire and life safety services to the citizens of Washington State including inspections of state licensed facilities, plan review of school construction projects, licensing of fire sprinkler contractors and pyrotechnic operators, training Washington States firefighters, and collecting emergency response data.