

Title:

Tips to Help You Avoid A Vehicle Fire

Word Count:

425

Summary:

Car fires account for 17 percent of all reported fires and 13 percent of all civilian fire deaths.

Keywords:

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Article Body:

Car fires account for 17 percent of all reported fires and 13 percent of all civilian fire deaths.

More than a quarter million vehicle fires occur every year.

"In 2004, vehicle fires caused more deaths than apartment fires," said NFPA President James M.

AAA is urging drivers to get a comprehensive vehicle maintenance inspection if they have not had one.

"Although drivers may believe fires occur mostly from collisions, this is not true. Many more fires occur from electrical problems, fuel leaks, and other issues.

To reduce the risk of a vehicle fire, AAA recommends the following:

- * Have your vehicle inspected at least annually by a professional technician. As a public service, AAA offers free vehicle safety checks.
- * Check for wear and tear. Watch for fluid leaks under vehicles, cracked or blistered hoses or belts, and worn tires.
- * Be alert to changes in the way your vehicle sounds when running, or to a visible plume of exhaust.

If your vehicle catches fire, firefighters recommend that you stop, pull to the side of the road, and call for help.

Make sure everyone gets out of the vehicle, move at least 100 feet away and call for help. Never return to the vehicle.

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