

**General Checklist for Vehicle Fire Inspection and Investigation**  
**Collision and Non-Collision Fires**

Fire Information:

Date, time of fire  
Location, orientation, position (*on road or off*)  
Weather (*wind direction, speed, rain, etc.*)

Summary of circumstances (*collision, non-collision, brief description of event*):

Fire Vehicle:

Make, model, model year, mileage  
VIN  
Vehicle condition (*note unusual operation or configuration, after-market equipment*)  
Pre-fire damage (*collision, other*)

Other Vehicles:

Fire Damage (*areas affected*):

Collision Damage (*areas affected*):

System Review for Fire Involvement:

*For each system check all components for evidence of pre-fire damage leading to non-collision fire, or collision damage leading to fire. Check for contribution to ignite or fuel fire. Check engine compartment, undercarriage, passenger compartment, cargo.*

Coolant  
Engine oil  
Automatic transmission fluid  
Power steering fluid  
Gasoline/Diesel/other  
Brake fluid  
Windshield washer fluid  
Electrical (*evidence of beading, loose connections*)

## General Checklist for Fire Inspections

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Exhaust system, turbo (*ignition source*)

### Summary:

Possible Fuels

Possible ignition sources

Possible origin and propagation

### Witness interview checklist:

Date of interview

Name of interviewee

Interviewee role in event (*driver, passenger, witness*)

Narrative of events (*minimum questions until after hearing the first narrative*)

Conditions at first observation (*time in the sequence*)

Witness position relative to vehicle (*distance, orientation*)

Witness description of his or her own activities (*for consideration of timeline*)

Time and position of first smoke, first flames, odors, appearance

Time within sequence of first responder arrival (*to compare events to logged times*)

Fluid leaks, sounds

Injuries (*from collision and fire*)

Owner: Recent service, general condition, operation, system performance, history of performance

Operator: Operation and conditions prior to and at time of fire, history of performance, occupants in vehicle prior to and at time of fire

Suppression activities and conditions at the time of suppression

### List documents, sources of information:

Police report

Fire report

Service Records

Vehicle data (*owner's manual, service manual, recall history, service records*)