

## Car Fire Safety Tips

Written by Staff Reporter  
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According to the NFPA (National Fire Protection Association) on average, a car catches fire every 4 minutes! And with more drivers hitting the roads this summer (according to AAA) due to a growing economy and low gasoline prices, the importance of car fire safety becomes increasingly important.

Cars can catch fire for many reasons. Mechanical or electrical issues are the most common cause. A car can also catch fire as the result of a bad crash. If you see smoke or flames or smell burning rubber or plastic, respond immediately.

Most car fluids are flammable. Heat and electrical sparks plus leaking fluid are all it takes to start a car fire. Although most crashes do NOT result in fire, in the event of any crash, call 9-1-1. If there is no sign of fire, wait for emergency assistance to help any injured individuals out of the car.

### What To Do If Your Car Is On Fire

- Pull over as quickly as it is safe to do so, be sure to use your signal as you make your way to a safe location off the road such as the breakdown lane or rest stop.
- Once you have stopped, TURN OFF the engine.
- Get everyone out of the car. Never return to a burning car to retrieve anything.
- Move everyone at least 100 feet from the burning car and well away from traffic.
- Call 911.

### How To Prevent A Car Fire

- Have your car serviced regularly by a professionally trained mechanic. If you spot leaks, your car is not running properly, get it checked. A well-maintained car is less likely to have a fire.
- If you must transport gasoline, transport only a small amount in a certified gas can that is sealed. Keep a window open for ventilation.
- Gas cans and propane cylinders should never be transported in the passenger compartment.
- Never park a car where flammables, such as grass, are touching the catalytic converter.
- Drive safely to avoid an accident.

### Know The Danger Signs

- Cracked or loose wiring or electrical problems, including a fuse that blows more than once
- Oil or fluid leaks
- Oil cap not on securely

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