

TECHNICAL BULLETIN

MOTOR COACH FIRE SAFETY

The spread of a fire from the engine compartment to the passenger compartment takes about 10 minutes, if the fire has not been extinguished or confined.

Vehicle User Shall:

- Develop a plan of action before fire occurs.
- The first rule of coach fire fighting is to save lives first and property second. Get yourself and passengers to safety before attempting to extinguish a fire. Only if you can do so without endangering yourself or others, should you use fire-fighting aids on hand.
- Invert and shake your dry-powder or dry chemical extinguisher monthly to loosen the powder. The jarring of the coach does not loosen the powder; in fact, it packs the powder, which may make your extinguisher ineffective.
- During your monthly inspections, check the fire extinguisher gauge to determine if there is pressure in the extinguisher. If the gauge indicates empty or needs charging replace or recharge the extinguisher immediately. If you need help testing your fire extinguisher, check with your local fire department.
- Install two 5 lb. ABC type extinguishers.
- Owners should provide training for every driver in the use of hand held fire extinguishers. Regular training and practice in the use of fire extinguishers and passenger evacuation should occur.
- In driver training, the importance of observing the driving properties of the vehicle should be emphasized. If, for example, there is steering drag the reason for it has to be determined before continuing to drive. There can be several serious reasons for steering drag, one of which is the jamming of the brake and its overheating.