

# Vehicle Fire Safety

It's critical to act quickly if your vehicle catches fire, and consider an often-overlooked vehicle accessory:

**A Fire Extinguisher**

Presented by Alex Smith



# Vehicle Fire Safety

A quick story from personal experience



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# Vehicle Fire Safety

- What to do if you see unusual smoke or your vehicle catches fire
  1. Pull over as quickly as you can when it is safe.
  2. Once you have stopped, turn off the engine.
  3. Get everyone out of the car.
    - Never return to a burning car.
    - It's not worth the risk! Do not try to fight the fire yourself unless you are extremely confident it is safe to manage with a fire extinguisher. If you're not sure, don't risk it!
  4. If you think there is a fire under the hood or trunk, do not open it. This could cause the fire to grow.
  5. Move everyone at least 100 feet from the burning car and well away from traffic.
  6. Call 911.

# Consider a Vehicle Fire Extinguisher

- It is generally safe to carry a fire extinguisher in your vehicle and they are fairly inexpensive.
- Keep the following in mind:
  - Can only be stored between -40 and 120 degrees Fahrenheit. (do your research there are excellent options for cars and trucks)
  - Need to be kept secured in your vehicle, unsecured items can turn into dangerous projectiles.
  - Must be properly maintained, inspect regularly.
  - Fire extinguishers come in several types with various uses. (typically an ABC dry chemical extinguisher)
  - **Make sure you know how to operate it!**
- The proper usage of a fire extinguisher is a simple acronym called PASS:
  1. **Pull:** Pull out the safety pin located at the top of the extinguisher. This will unlock the handle and allow you to use the extinguisher.
  2. **Aim:** Aim the nozzle or hose at the base of the fire, not the flames. This is where the fuel source is located, and extinguishing it will put out the fire.
  3. **Squeeze:** Squeeze the handle or trigger to release the extinguishing agent.
  4. **Sweep:** Sweep the nozzle or hose from side to side to extinguish the fire.