

Safety Alert



Armored Vehicle Fires OIF SA-09



M88 Completely destroyed – Crew threw dirt on top of the closed engine compartment verses using the fire suppression system.

M2 Completely destroyed – Crew did not follow procedures and left the engine running which vented all Halon out of the compartment.

M1 Completely destroyed – Crew did not close hatches and covers which released the agent to the surrounding area.

Combat power lost due to lack of awareness & training

Investigations of these and other vehicle fires have shown the following:

- Personnel are not familiar with the fire suppression systems (fixed & portable) on the vehicles
- Personnel are not using systems properly
- Personnel are not conducting proper PMCS on suppression systems
- Personnel are not conducting proper fire drills prior to missions
- Personnel are not familiar with the affects of Halon, CO2, or ABC powder fire suppression systems and are falling victim to urban myths about Halon

M88 Hercules – Refer to TM 9-2350-256-10 or 292-10

M2/M3 BFV – Refer to TM 9-2350-284-10-1

M1 Tank – Refer to TM 9-2350-288-10-2

All personnel must be trained to properly identify a fire and executing proper emergency.

- The fire must be identified and conveyed to all personnel by utilizing the proper words – Vehicle Fire! Then provide the location i.e. engine.
- TC must decide if evacuation is required and initiate emergency procedures.
- Engine must be stopped for all fires regardless of location.
- Activate proper suppression system (engine or crew compartment).
- All personnel must move to a safe distance away from the vehicle (30 meters to the left rear of the vehicle). Take accountability of all personnel and sensitive items.
- If enemy threat exists or rounds begin to cook-off seek protective cover.

Emergency procedures list multiple warnings that must be followed or personnel can be seriously injured or killed. The key to surviving a vehicle fire is continual practice of emergency procedures, before you need them, and proper identification of the emergency.

