

No : 22/2014

Date : 5 December 2014



AIRPORT EMERGENCY SERVICE

FIRE PREVENTION CIRCULAR

To Airport Staff and Partners

VEHICULAR FIRE SAFETY ADVISORY

National Environmental Agency (NEA) reported on 21 Nov 2014[§] that it had taken action against errant drivers who leave the vehicle engine idling while their vehicles are stationary. Under the Environmental Protection and Management (Vehicular Emission) regulations, it is an offence to leave the engine of a motor vehicle running when it is stationary for reasons other than traffic conditions.

2 Beside environmental issues, long running vehicular or equipment engine can also cause overheating and subsequent fire outbreaks. While the number of airside vehicular/equipment fires remain low (see figure 1), vehicular and equipment fire can be a threat to aircraft and airport operations.

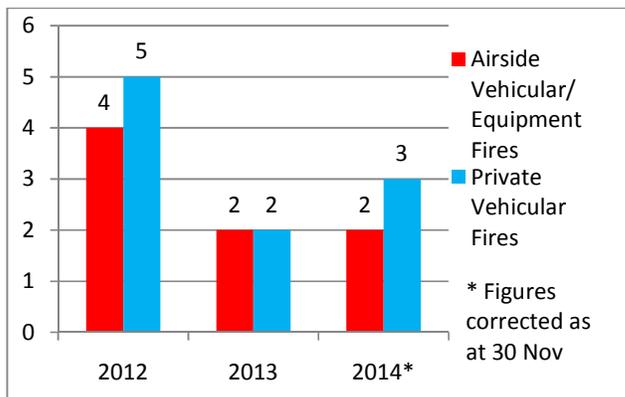


Figure 1 – Vehicular and mobile equipment fires from 2012 to Nov 2014.



Figure 2 – A cargo carrier burst into flame from an aircraft as it was preparing to takeoff at a busy international airport[#].

3 In May 2014[#], a cargo carrier caught fire metres away from an aircraft as it was preparing for takeoff (see figure 2) at an international airport in the United Kingdom. On 9 Mar 2014, a tow-tug pushing an aircraft for departure caught fire at Changi Airport. Fortunately, the driver's utilisation of onboard and trolley extinguisher helped to control the fire before AES' arrival.

4 Any vehicle fire, especially in the apron area could cause disruptions to aerodrome operations. In more serious circumstances, fire from a burning vehicle could easily spread to an aircraft. For this reason, AES wish to reiterate the importance of good fire safety habits to prevent vehicular fire incidents at the airside as follows:-

- i) Ensure that all vehicles undergoes regular maintenance;
- ii) Increase the maintenance frequency for older vehicles and include checks on wired connections;
- iii) Ensure serviceable fire extinguisher(s) is/are placed in the vehicle and user trained to use them;
- iv) Turn off the vehicle's engine prior to your exit (adopt this when handing / taking over vehicles);
- v) Adopt a habit of checking your vehicle for loose wirings or leakage of fluids prior to starting its engine; &
- vi) Be wary about the temperature of the vehicle and stop operations of the vehicle if the temperature gauge points to a quarter from 'Hot'.

5 For further clarifications, you may contact the Airport Emergency Service Fire Prevention Section (AES FPS) at 65412535 or at fire.safety@changiairport.com.

NG KENG LYE
for DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT, FIRE PREVENTION
AIRPORT EMERGENCY SERVICE

Reference:-

\$ <http://www.todayonline.com/singapore/nea-clamps-down-drivers-who-leave-engines-idling>

\$ <http://www.straitstimes.com/news/singapore/environment/story/warnings-issued-14-motorists-caught-leaving-vehicle-engines-idling->

<http://www.ibtimes.co.uk/heathrow-airport-fire-cargo-carrier-bursts-into-flames-near-jet-airways-boeing-777-1447511>