

Good morning, I'm here today to speak on behalf of the Vermont State Firefighters Association in support of the new proposal to require hybrid and fully electric vehicles to be identified with markings on the registration license plate. These vehicles present many more challenges and hazards to our fire and rescue personnel when involved in motor vehicle crashes and or fires. Not having a uniform identification system creates a challenge, as auto manufactures do not do a good job in identifying their vehicles. When they do identify it's usually very small, and in various places. Some have no identification at all. Having a uniform marking system would help an incident commander in operational decision making, i.e.: EV fires require many more gallons of water, being able to identify the vehicle sooner would result in more water being dispatched sooner. When an EV is burning you must have a continuous operation in order to mitigate the situation.

In motor vehicle crashes these vehicles present more challenges and hazards to our firefighters. Extrication procedures become more complicated and dangerous i.e. having to avoid cutting into high voltage wires etc. The Institution of Engineering and Technology guide for first responders states we should be using appropriately insulated automotive hand tools. They even state we should be wearing electrical safety gloves. We have no access to the batteries and are unable to monitor their status for overheating and bursting into flames.

There are many manuals or guides, training etc. out there but who has time to follow a guide when you arrive at an incident.

The bottom line here is anything we can do to better protect our firefighters we fully support.

Having a uniform identification system that everyone understands would set the stage for early identification, operational procedures, and safety precautions, hopefully resulting in a positive ending to the incident.

Respectfully

Dean J. Gilmore

Past Asst. Chief NHVFD

VSFA Gov. Affairs Ch.

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ACFA County Rep.

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