

LABOR RELATIONS



October 14, 2020

RECEIVED

OCT 19 2020

Mr. Brian J. Wagner
President
National Association of Postal
Supervisors
1727 King Street, Suite 400
Alexandria, VA 22314-2753

Dear Mr. Wagner:

As a matter of general interest, the Postal Service is issuing the Safety Talk, *Potential Vehicle Fires Due to Over-Cranking* in response to recent reports of vehicle fires caused by hard start conditions and overcranking.

A hard start condition occurs when the engine is "cranking" after the ignition key is turned to the crank position, but the engine will not start. This safety talk is designed to educate our employees who operate postal vehicles about "hard start" conditions and provides specific instructions to be followed when an incident of this nature occurs.

We have enclosed the following:

- A final draft copy of *Potential Vehicle Fires Due to Over-Cranking* Safety Talk

Please contact Bruce Nicholson at extension 7773 if you have any questions concerning this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "David E. Mills".

David E. Mills
Manager
Labor Relations Policies and Programs

Enclosure

Safety Talk



**SAFETY
DEPENDS
ON ME!**

UNITED STATES
POSTAL SERVICE

Potential Vehicle Fires Due to Over-Cranking

There have been recent reports of vehicle fires due to hard start conditions/over-cranking. A hard start condition is when the engine is cranking after the ignition key is turned to the crank position, but the engine will not start. This can be caused by a number of conditions:

- Fuel or ignition system problem
- Restricted exhaust system
- Worn engine components

If the engine does not start within a reasonable number of tries (2 or 3 start attempts) stop cranking the engine and follow the steps below:

- Immediately stop the vehicle in a safe location.
- Exit the vehicle.
- Call 911 ONLY if steam or smoke is seen.
- If no smoke is detected, and for other warning signs such as low tire pressure, high temperature warning light or check engine light, call your supervisor immediately to advise them of the condition.
- Maintain a safe distance from the vehicle until further instructions are received from the supervisor.
- Complete PS Form 4565, Vehicle Repair Tag, and submit it to your supervisor upon return to the station.

While repair and maintenance of our Postal owned fleet will not prevent all vehicle fires, being aware of the above conditions can significantly help to reduce them.

Remember: Safety Depends on YOU!