



Equipment Alert

July 31, 2012

USFS-EA-2012-01

Subject: Storage of Flammable or Combustible Materials in Vehicles

Issue: A 2012 Ford F350 with utility body recently experienced a fire in the lower rear passenger side compartment (see attached photo). There was combustible material stored in the compartment. The cause of the fire has been attributed to the proximity of the exhaust pipe in relation to the compartment immediately above the exhaust. Flammable liquids and combustible material have historically been stored in this location on some vehicles.

Required Action: 1) Move flammable liquids (e.g. fuel) and combustible materials (e.g. fusees) to a vented compartment that is not located immediately above the exhaust system. 2) Add a permanent warning label to the lower rear passenger side compartment which states the following:



Recommended Action: Depending on the location of the exhaust pipe in relation to the body, the exhaust gas might exit *below* the lower rear passenger side compartment. If so, the exhaust pipe should be extended so that the exhaust gas exits *beyond* the compartment to prevent heat damage to the body.

Discussion: This notice applies to all vehicles with a utility body and a *horizontal exhaust* (exiting the vehicle below the body), including but not limited to non-fire utility body vehicles, utility body Type 6 engines, utility body prevention trucks, and superintendent trucks.

Additional Information: Compartment labels are available from: Decal Details, 1986 Shelby Road, Redding, CA 96002 (530)722-0242. Request the *Forest Service Vehicle Compartment Warning Decal*.

For additional information, contact Becky Hutchins, National Fleet Manager at (360)891-5212, rhutchins@fs.fed.us; Leslie Anderson, Branch Chief Fire Equipment and Chemicals at (406)329-1043, landerson@fs.fed.us; or your fleet manager.

