



CHICAGO FIRE DEPARTMENT BUREAU OF OPERATIONS



Operations Order: 25-004
March 26, 2025

SUBJECT: ELECTRIC VEHICLE (EV) FIRE BLANKET

I. PURPOSE

This Order:

- A. Defines the Electric Vehicle (EV) Fire Blanket;
- B. Establishes the issuance of the EV Fire Blanket;
- C. Establishes guidelines for the appropriate use, care, storage, and replacement of the EV Fire Blanket; and
- D. Becomes effective immediately.

II. POLICY

It is the policy of the Chicago Fire Department (CFD) to provide the necessary tools to assist when operating safely at the scene of an incident. The EV Fire Blanket is being distributed to designated Engine Companies and other Department response vehicles to assist in the mitigation of EV fires.

III. DEFINITIONS

- A. **Electric Vehicle (EV) Fire Blanket**: A fire-rated thermal blanket designed to assist in the mitigation of an EV fire in which the lithium-ion battery is experiencing thermal runaway, with the primary goal of containing the fire to protect exposures (especially nearby vehicles).



IV. PROCEDURE

A. The following Companies will receive one (1) EV Fire Blanket:

1. Designated Companies or response vehicles, by District:

DIST 1		DIST 2		DIST 3		DIST 4	DIST 5
E1	E19	E102	E11	ORD	MDW	E57	E63
E13	E84	E70	E108	BN 13	BN 16	E107	E72
E98	E60	E83	E125	SQ 7	6-3-7	E113	E121
E4		E78	E91	E9			E115
E8		E55		E10			
				E12			

2. High-Rise Unit 6-4-16

3. Other companies or response vehicles, as determined by the Fire Commissioner

B. Upon receipt of the EV Fire Blanket, Company Officers shall record the receipt of the EV Fire Blanket into the Company Journal and all appropriate inventories.

C. Any damages or deficiencies noted with the EV Fire Blanket during the daily inspection shall be reported immediately to the Company Officer.

D. Any damage or deficiencies to the EV Fire Blanket which requires replacement shall be directed by the Company Officer to the on-duty officer at the Division of Breathing Apparatus Service (BAS).

E. Company Officers shall ensure that the EV Fire Blanket is always properly secured and stored on the apparatus when not in use.

F. Lost, stolen, or damaged EV Fire Blankets shall be reported and documented in compliance with current Department policies and procedures.

V. OPERATIONAL USE OF THE EV FIRE BLANKET

A. All EV fires shall be mitigated in accordance with the current Department SOP for Electric Vehicle Fires.

B. If the responding Engine Company does not have an issued EV Fire Blanket, the Company Officer or Incident Commander shall request the response of a company equipped with an EV Fire Blanket via the OEMC.

C. The EV Fire Blanket shall be deployed as a means to **protect exposures** at any **EV fire** in which the vehicle's lithium-ion battery is on fire and is experiencing, or is at imminent risk of, thermal runaway.

NOTE: The primary purpose of the EV Fire Blanket is to **contain** the EV battery fire to **prevent fire/smoke spread and damage to exposures**. The EV Fire Blanket will **aid in the extinguishment** of the EV battery fire, but primary extinguishment must still be accomplished using copious amounts of water via the Under-Vehicle Nozzle and appropriate fire attack hose line(s).

- D. At the discretion of the Incident Commander, the EV Fire Blanket may be used for conventional (non-EV) vehicle fires **only in an extreme emergency** (such as a significant delay in getting water on the fire) **and where there is an immediate risk to exposures.**
- E. When operating at any vehicle fire, members must wear full PPE and don and activate their SCBA.
- F. **When deploying the EV Fire Blanket at an EV fire:**
 - 1. Utilize hand line(s) as appropriate to suppress flames and protect members pulling the fire blanket over the vehicle.
 - 2. Determine if the EV Fire Blanket can be safely deployed, based upon the volume of fire and/or how close the vehicle is to adjacent vehicles or other obstructions.
 - 3. Remove the blanket from its carrying pouch and unfold it in a safe area as close as possible to the fire.
 - 4. If possible, approach the vehicle from the end or side of the vehicle that is less involved in fire.
 - 5. Using available manpower, grab the blanket handles, raise the blanket high in the air and briskly pull the blanket over the vehicle. Try to minimize direct contact with the vehicle, as sharp edges can tear the blanket.
 - 6. Center the blanket over the vehicle, using the marking points on the blanket.
 - 7. Ensure the blanket is touching the ground on all sides.
 - 8. If safe to do so, use the strap to wrap the base of the blanket around the base of the vehicle. Other available objects can be used to weigh down the blanket to prevent it blowing off in the wind. This will also help cut off oxygen to the fire.
 - 9. Spray the outside of the blanket with water to cool the fire.
 - 10. Utilize the thermal imaging camera to monitor the status of the fire.
- G. The EV Fire Blanket is a **single-use** blanket. **Do not remove or retrieve** the blanket from the vehicle after the fire has been contained. The blanket will remain with the vehicle and disposed of by the tow truck or salvage vehicle.

VI. RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. Company Officers shall be held accountable for the daily inventory, inspection, and care of the EV Fire Blanket
- B. Chief Officers and Company Officers shall be responsible for ensuring compliance with the provisions of this Order.
- C. Chief Officers and Company Officers shall conduct Company School to ensure that all members are aware of the provisions of this Order.
- D. It is the responsibility of all members to have a thorough knowledge of this Order.

By order of:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Marc Ferman', with a stylized flourish at the end.

**Marc Ferman
Deputy Fire Commissioner
Bureau of Operations**

TO BE READ AT FOUR (4) ROLL CALLS AND POSTED

Distribution: A