

A resolution supporting standard markings for vehicles using alternative fuels

*Offered by:
North American Fire Training Directors*

Whereas, America is rapidly developing and using hybrid vehicles and alternative fueled vehicles using E85 and hydrogen fuel to help reduce our nations dependence on oil and;

Whereas, E85 fuel and hydrogen have unique and very different fire and explosions hazards that will add a new threat to the public and the firefighters who respond to emergencies involving vehicles that use either fuel:

Whereas, vehicles using E85 fuel and hydrogen are already traveling our streets and highways and because both fuels are very volatile and have very different properties when involved in a leak or fire that are much different and more hazardous than existing common fuels, gasoline, diesel fuel or propane, therefore specific markings are needed on each vehicle and in specific location on the vehicle. This marking scheme is needed to improve safety and protect the citizens, and also improve safety for firefighters and first responders who deal with emergencies when vehicles using these hazardous materials are involved.

Whereas, vehicles using alternative fuels when involved in an accident, fire, leak or spill create a very unique fire and explosion hazard which becomes a hazardous materials event thus these special markings are a much needed method to placard these type vehicles.

Be it resolved, the Congressional Fire Service Institute will work with the vehicle manufactures and the Department of Transportation to develop and pursue requirements for standard markings in a standard location on every vehicle that is fueled by alternative fuels, E85 fuel, Hydrogen or is a hybrid vehicles. This marking placard shall be of a minimum size to be observable from 25 feet without magnification. This hazards marking (placard) system is needed because firefighters who respond to emergencies involving alternative fueled vehicles must be able to quickly identify the specific hazardous materials involved and take appropriate action to protect the public and themselves from the potential of fire and explosion hazards.