

COZEN O'CONNOR BUS FIRE FIELD ADJUSTER HANDBOOK

Buses and motorcoaches present unique and challenging forensic and legal issues. The vehicles are more sophisticated than cars and carry far more precious cargo – passengers – heightening the need for first rate forensic analysis on the front end. The transitory nature of buses often triggers complex choice of law questions that can further complicate such difficult legal issues as the economic loss rule, statutes of repose, warranty law, strict product liability, and other issues. To navigate these challenges, Cozen O'Connor's Subrogation and Recovery Group has developed the Bus Fire Task Force consisting of five attorneys highly experienced with such losses. Our Task Force has developed a database of experts with deep experience investigating coach and bus fires, along with a Bus Fire Check List to assist the adjuster and subrogation professional in examining bus fires

Model year _____

Date of sale to first purchaser *(go to www.carfax.com)*

Statute of repose for jurisdiction
(see Cozen O'Connor chart)

Manufacturer _____

Make of vehicle _____

Color _____

VIN _____

FDOT number _____

License number _____

Mileage _____

When last driven or run _____

Who last drove or ran vehicle _____

How far driven when last driven _____

Where driven _____

When parked _____

Circumstances of parking vehicle _____

Circumstances of the fire _____

Time of fire _____

Where vehicle was situated _____

Recalls _____

Repairs _____

Damage from extinguishing fire _____

Area of greatest damage (check)
 Engine Trunk Passenger
 Dash Other

Wheels/tires/rims match? (yes/no) _____

Tire condition *(tread, inflated, deflated, burn marks)*

 Driver side front tires _____

 Driver side middle tires _____

Driver side rear tires _____

Passenger side front tires _____

Passenger side middle tires _____

Passenger side rear tires _____

Doors (*open or closed, locked or unlocked, doorjamb, stickers*)

Driver side front door _____

Driver side rear door _____

Passenger side front door _____

Passenger side rear door _____

Hatch _____

Windows (*up or down, broken, soot, flow direction*)

Driver side front _____

Driver side rear _____

Passenger side front _____

Passenger side rear _____

Storage area

Spare tire _____

Flammable contents _____

Personal property _____

Contents _____

Components (*note manufacturer; condition; if original or after-market; purchased where, when and from whom; if repaired or serviced and where, when and by whom*)

Antenna _____

Mirrors _____

Battery _____

Driver side airbag _____

Passenger side airbag _____

Side airbags _____

Speakers _____

Air conditioner _____

Stereo _____

Satellite radio _____

CB _____

TV _____

CD _____

DVD _____

VCR _____

Charger _____

Global positioning unit _____

Refrigerator _____

PA unit _____

Other appliances _____

Cigarette lighter _____

Others _____

Interior items

Carpet _____

Floor mats _____

Underlayment _____

Dash board _____

Ashtray _____

Console _____

Loose papers _____

Underlayment _____

Seats (covers, loose items, bucket or bench, up or down, degree of burn)

Driver side front _____

Passenger side front _____

Driver side rear _____

Passenger side rear _____

Other seats _____

Vandalism/theft/missing _____

Glove box

(circle) Open or closed

Contents _____

Steering column

Interlock _____

Keys _____

Ignition position _____

Lock location _____

Power steering _____

Standard steering _____

R & P _____

Engine

Size _____

Cylinders _____

Transmission

Auto _____

Manual _____

Speed _____

Overdrive _____

Full-wheel drive _____

Front wheel drive _____

Turbocharger (yes or no, type) _____

Fuel system

(circle) Gasoline or diesel

Fuel tank location _____

Fuel pump location _____

Is there a carburetor? (yes/no)

Is there fuel injection? (yes/no)

Cylinder _____

Throttle body _____

Cold start injector _____

Fuel line routing _____

Fuel line hoses _____

Tank examinations

Eruptions _____

Fuel level _____

Brake fluid level _____

Cooling fluid level _____

Washer fluid level _____

Oil level _____

Exhaust examination

Air pump exhaust control _____

Check valve _____

Piping _____

Mech _____

Proximity _____

Communication to rear _____

Vapor control system

Cannister #1 _____

Cannister #2 _____

EGR valve _____

PCV valve _____

Electrical examination of the engine compartment

Battery

to power distribution _____

to starter _____

to alternator _____

grounds _____

alternative paths _____

loose connections _____

fusible links _____

Starter condition _____

Alternator

electrical connections _____

any loose connections _____

bearings _____

fan blade condition _____

casting condition _____

Power distribution box

Condition _____

Wire faults

beads? _____

sharp edges? _____

overloads (acting like fusible links) _____

Ignition system

Ignition type _____

Ignition switch circuit _____

Coil _____

Plug wires _____

Fuse box wiring to f/b _____

Fuse box fuses _____

Flexible hoses

Brake lines _____

Fuel lines _____

Power steering lines _____

ATF lines _____

ATF radiator _____

V patterns from leaking liquid? _____

Surfaces with combustible fluids? _____

Hot spots

Exhaust manifold _____

Catalytic converter _____

Wiring _____

Smoker _____

Other _____

Ashtray _____

Upholstery _____

Dashboard _____

Friction _____

Draw oxidation/burn patterns _____

System in area of most fire intensity _____

Fire scenario _____

Source of fuel _____

Source of ignition _____

Material to sustain combustion _____

Documents to search for:

- Purchase invoices
- Documents of title
- Warranty on chassis
- Warranty on components
- Repair/service invoices
- Transportation agreements
- Rental agreements
- Temporary employment agreement
- Bills of lading
- Freight bills
- Manifest
- Phone logs, text message
- Event data recorder
- Dispatch records
- Driver call-in records
- Gate record receipts
- Weigh station records
- Fuel receipts
- Toll receipts
- Delivery receipts
- Trip permits
- Passenger receipts
- Passenger list
- Police Dash Cams
- Drive Cams
- Highway cams
- Surveillance cams
- Satellite tracks, e.g. Omnitrac
- Engine Control Modules
- VORAD (*Collision Warning*)
- Driver's Laptop
- Witnesses' cell phone images

Review of the checklist _____

Our Team

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