

Engine 5670 Cab Electrical Fire 03/10/18

During the evening of 03/09/18, the BLM CFO fire engine 5670 caught fire. The fire was caused by a small flashlight plugged into the cigarette lighter. Despite the engine being off and the main switch to the engine placed in the “off” position, the current to the electric cigarette lighter was still live. The flashlight apparently overheated to the point that it ejected and exploded from the cigarette lighter. Hot fragments of the flashlight caught the driver’s seat on fire.

Fortunately, the windows on the fire engine were rolled up. Although the seat ignited and flash fired from the flashlight components, the fire rapidly consumed the available oxygen in the cab of the truck and put itself out. All fire damage was confined primarily to the driver’s seat of the truck, with some melting of the overhead liner and components directly over the driver’s seat. Smoke damage was extensive inside the cab but fully contained inside the cab. Other than the driver’s seat, no other components in the cab caught fire. A paper folded map in the driver’s door pocket of the cab had smoke damage but did not ignite. The morning fire crew found the burned cab upon arrival on Saturday morning, but all components of the cab damaged in the fire were already cold.

A fire investigation was conducted on 03/10/18 and the engine will be taken out of service until the fire damage to the cab is mitigated.

All considered, it was a very small fire and could have been far worse. One primary factor helped mitigate the potential damage: the rolled up windows on the cab of the engine.



A small rechargeable flashlight like the pictured above caused the fire.



The engine power switch in the "off" position.



The engine dash and cigarette lighter component.



Fire damage to the driver's seat of the vehicle.



Heat damage to the headliner of the cab.



Head damage to driver's visor components.



Smoke damage to back seat of cab.



Overall view of cab interior from passenger side of engine.



Cab windows blackened with smoke.



Undamaged exterior of fire engine.