



### FLOOD EVENTS

## Safety Checklist for Electric Vehicles that were submerged or exposed to high volumes of water

- If the vehicle has been submerged or exposed to high volumes of water, request Fire Department Support **911** and CONTACT the ESA: **855-ESA-SAFE**.
- Electric vehicles that have been water damaged pose a significant risk for short circuit and thermal event resulting in Toxic and Flammable Gas production and FIRE.
- This may occur moments, hours, or days after the vehicle is removed from the water or moved for relocation.
- If the vehicle is found totally or partially submerged, Fire Department should conduct a surface water assessment. If the water is bubbling, vehicle is buzzing/popping/hissing or gas meter sampling reveals CO presence, **DO NOT** attempt recovery for a minimum 14 days. Contact local EPA for water hazard assessment or conduct Ph evaluation of water.
- If the water assessment is negative for hazards, attempt appropriate recovery. Use only synthetic connections and avoid nonstructural anchors including control arms. Doors will most likely be inaccessible due to low voltage loss of power – roof sling capturing A or B posts is recommended. **DO NOT** make contact with High Voltage components or battery pack. The body of water will not present a direct electrical hazard to operators.
- Pay close attention to damaged areas of the vehicle that may affect any part of the HV electrical system.
- Use the ESA text link to take photos of the vehicle as directed by the ESA agent.
- **AVOID** contact with electrical components when rigging the vehicle for towing/winching.
- Fire Department should be present during the vehicle recovery and should attempt to scan the battery pack with a Thermal Imaging Camera during the recovery process. Any temperature increases above 200 f are indicators of imminent thermal event.
- All personnel on scene should isolate themselves a minimum of 75' and upwind from the vehicle should it begin to produce gas or fire.
- Fire Personnel SHALL wear full PPE including SCBA and Structural Turnout gear during an off gassing or Fire event.



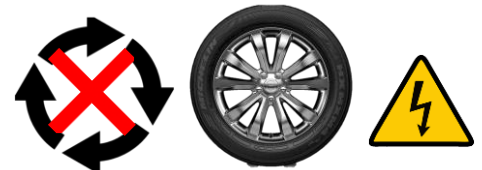
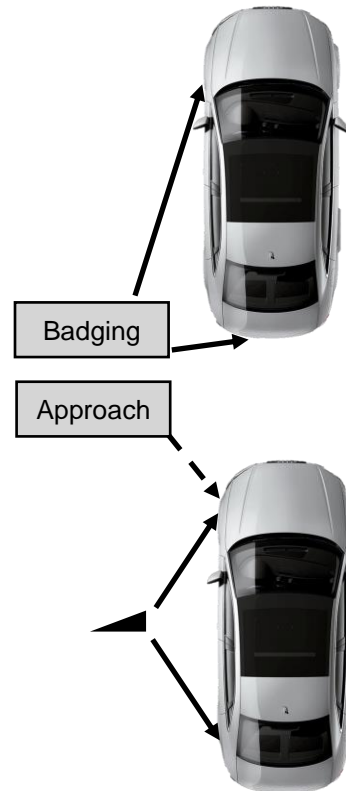


- Assess the vehicle from a distance of 50' - 75' and verify that the vehicle is a hybrid or electric through badging and design features.
- **CALL 855-ESA-SAFE or 855-372-7233**



**SMOKE or FIRE: CALL 911 (FIRE)**  
**SUBMERSION: CALL 911 (FIRE)**  
**ARCING, POPPING, BUZZING: CALL 911 (FIRE)**  
**SWEET ELECTRICAL ODOR: CALL 911 (FIRE)**

- If SAFE, approach the vehicle from the corners and chock the wheels to prevent movement. Electric vehicles may be ON and in DRIVE or REVERSE with no audible or visual indicators.
- Identify the Make, Model and Year for the ESA agent and begin the RISK ASSESSMENT process.
- If possible, perform INITIAL SHUT DOWN procedures as directed by the ESA agent.
- **DO NOT** make physical contact with any HIGH VOLTAGE ORANGE CABLES or the HIGH VOLTAGE BATTERY PACK.
- **DO NOT:**
  - Rotate wheels
  - Turn Vehicle ON
  - Charge Low Voltage
  - Engage Neutral or Tow mode
  - Attempt movement or repositioning without Fire Dept.
- Use the ESA text link to take photos of the vehicle as directed by the ESA agent.
- When loading, **AVOID** contact with electrical components when rigging the vehicle for towing. Use Skates or Go Jacks to eliminate wheel movement and only transport on flatbed
- Request Fire Dept. thermal assessment of the battery pack during loading, off-loading, and relocation. Fire Dept. should escort tow operators during transport of high-risk electric vehicles.
- Vehicles MUST be isolated for storage according to ESA guidelines and positioned a minimum of 50' away from all combustibles and exposures.
- Any charger still plugged into a vehicle should be locked out/tagged out and then unplugged from the vehicle.
- Place an ESA LEVEL RED (Risk Assessment Placard) Sticker on the vehicle as directed per the ESA.



*ESA support services are provided free of charge to tow operators and first responders*

