



University of Houston
Division of Administration and Finance
Department of Public Safety

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Ford Expedition Goes Aflame on Campus



With the arrival of the first day of the Spring semester, students are busy going from class to class, faculty are working on their first lectures of the new year and staff are trying hard to make the first day a little less complicated. Meanwhile, the University of Houston Fire Marshal's office is working the scene of a major vehicle fire. As soon as the fire erupted the Fire Marshal's office was dispatched to the scene. The University of Houston is fortunate to have its own Fire and Life Safety Department. This department consists of the Fire Marshal, Assistant Fire Marshal and three Deputy Fire Marshals. Thankfully no one was injured as a result of the fire. The University of Houston Fire Marshal's Office responded immediately when the call came in and coordinated the arrival of the Houston Fire Department. With the strong winds blowing that



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day, this fire could have rapidly gotten out of hand. Assistant Fire Marshal, Joe Tremont commented, "The fire spread rapidly to a second car because of the high North winds. Both cars were a total loss in value along with the owner's personal property inside the vehicles. Please do not leave valuable documents and personnel property inside your vehicles." Without the presence of the UH Fire Marshal's Office at the scene to cordon off an appropriate space someone could have been seriously hurt. With the exception of the two engulfed vehicles, no serious harm was done, especially not to people. Although still under investigation, the evidence suggests that the probable cause was a failure of a recalled cruise control mechanism. This mechanism has been known to cause similar fires in Ford Expeditions and Explorers. "In order to avoid the possibility of a similar incident please have your recalls fixed on your vehicles when you get the notice from the manufacturer, or when you hear about them from the news media", Tremont adds.