



SPECIAL ORDER



| | | | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|---|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Series 2001 | Number 21 | Originating Bureau Operations | Effective Date 08/07/01 | Expiration Date N/A |
|-----------------------|---------------------|---|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|

Subject:

Hybrid Electric Vehicles

1. Please review the attached Safety Alert concerning hybrid electric vehicles.

Joseph A. Herr

Joseph A. Herr
Fire Chief

Safety *ALERT*



August 2001

Howard County Fire and Rescue
Capt. Michael Baker, Health and Safety Officer

Issue No. 16

Hybrid Electric Vehicles (HEV)

All members shall use extreme caution whenever a hybrid electric vehicle is encountered during an emergency incident.

In an attempt to meet strict emissions standards, Toyota and Honda have introduced hybrid electric vehicles to the market. These vehicles share the power of a gasoline motor with electrical energy supplied by banks of batteries. Hybrid vehicles operate at nearly 300 volts of DC current. The Toyota Prius and the Honda Insight are on the street today. The Ford Motor Company has announced its entry into the hybrid market with the 2003 Escape HEV. In addition, General Motors has announced that it will soon introduce a much larger HEV system for buses and large trucks into its line of vehicles.

Each company was sent a copy of Toyota's Emergency Response Guide to the Prius HEV. As other guides become available, copies will be sent to each company for review. A copy shall be placed on engines and special services for reference.