



### **Incident of Interest**

On January 12, 2009 at 7:11 a.m., the Plymouth Fire Department responded to a reported car fire on Carlson Parkway over I-494. Units arrived to find a four door sedan with the engine compartment fully engulfed. Engine 21 laid the front bumper line and began a fire attack from the front corner of the vehicle. After the bulk of the fire was knocked down, the crew began to open the hood to check for further involvement. As the hood was being opened, the gas-operated strut that holds the hood up in the open position was found about 15' in front of the vehicle fully extended as shown in the picture above. The strut which contains compressed gas had blown away from the vehicle. There are two documented cases in other parts of the country of firefighters being badly injured from these types of struts. In one case, the strut went through a firefighter's gloved hand and in another the strut went through the firefighter's leg. A few safety tips to remember:

- Struts are located both under the hood and in the rear hatch.
- Approach the vehicle from the corners, not the front or the rear.
- Wear full PPE at all times.
- Put water on the fire from a safe distance to cool the area where the struts may be located.
- Gas loaded bumpers can cause the same reaction injuring firefighters.

**BE SAFE**