
Emergency Operations

Book:	3 Emergency Operations
Chapter	IV Firefighting
Subject	8 Industrial Dumpster Fires
Code	3-IV-8
Revised	10/28/2003

8.01 Purpose

To provide a safe and effective method of handling fires in industrial dumpsters.

8.02 Policy

In the event of an industrial dumpster fire, the following procedure shall be followed.

8.03 Procedure

- a. Attempt to determine what is burning.
- b. Contact employees or management to assist in determining the contents of dumpster.
- c. Consider the presents of Hazardous Materials until ruled out.

8.04 Safety

- a. Remove all bystanders from area
- b. Operate with wind at your back, if possible.
- c. If dumpster is against building, consider moving to an open area.
- d. Contents in dumpster may be water reactive, explosive or an oxidizing agent.
- e. All personnel should be especially aware of personal safety during extinguishment and overhaul process.
- f. It may be necessary to decontaminate clothing, equipment, and apparatus.
- g. Any member experiencing any unusual feeling (tightness in the chest, nausea, itching, shortness of breath etc.) should receive medical attention.

8.05 Fire Control

- a. All members involved in operation shall be in full protective clothing, including self-contained breathing apparatus.
- b. Attack from upwind side.
- c. Check for extension into building (if dumpster is near or against building)
- d. Use foam to increase effectiveness.
- e. Consider water supply problems.

8.06 Hazardous Materials, Control, Containment and Decontamination

- a. If Hazardous Materials are present refer to Hazardous Materials (General) policy 3-IX-1.
- b. It may be necessary to contain run-off if substance is hazardous.
- c. Dike material (i. e. sand, dirt, absorbent etc.) may be necessary.
- d. Decontamination of protective clothing, hose and equipment may be necessary.