

Halifax Fire Department

February 3, 2004

STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINE

Industrial Dumpster Fires

14.01 PURPOSE

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

14.02 POLICY

In the event of an industrial dumpster fire, the following guideline should be followed.

14.03 PROCEDURE

- A. The first Fire Department Officer or member arriving on scene shall transmit a Brief Initial Report (BIR) including:
 1. Unit or individual identification.
 2. Approximate size of dumpster in yardage or dimensions.
 3. Attached or unattached to a structure.
 4. What is showing (smoke, fire, explosions)
 5. Exposures.
 6. Who is in Command.
- B. The Incident Commander should attempt to determine the contents of the dumpster via the lessee of the dumpster.
- C. Determine water supply and if additional assistance is needed.
- D. Remove bystanders from the area.
- E. If the dumpster is attached or against a building you may want to attempt to move the dumpster from the building, if possible.
- F. If the dumpster is a part of an attached compactor unit, a fire suppression crew should be deployed to the interior of the building to protect the building from extension of the fire.
- G. The minimum size attack hose line shall be 1-3/4". The fire should be attacked from upwind and you should look for access ports for extinguishing purposes.

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14.04 CONTAINMENT

- A. It may be necessary to control run-off if the contents of the dumpster is a hazardous material.
- B. Utilization of dikes, booms, and containment areas may be necessary. Hose lines, absorbent pads, sand, and booms may be used.
- C. If the hazardous materials involved is more than the Halifax Fire Department can control, the IC may activate the District 1 Haz-Mat Team.

14.05 SAFETY

- A. All members involved in the operations of a dumpster fire shall be in full protective clothing, including SCBA.(SOG 2)
- B. Operate with the wind at your back, if possible.
- C. Contents in the dumpster may be water reactive, explosive or an oxidizing agent.
- D. In some instances you may need to use Foam to extinguish the fire.
- E. Be especially aware of personnel safety during overhaul operations.
- F. PPE, tools, equipment, and apparatus may have to be decontaminated after an incident involving a dumpster.
- G. Any Fire Department member experiencing any unusual feeling, tightness in the chest, nausea, etc. should receive medical attention immediately.