

Union County Standard Operating Guidelines  
**Fireground Operations**

**Fireground Operations, SOG 3.36**

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**DUMPSTER FIRES**

1. Intent and Purpose
  - a. To provide a safe and effective method of handling fires in dumpsters. These guidelines should also handle Cardboard compactor and trash truck fires.
2. Procedure
  - a. Attempt to determine what is burning.
  - b. Contact employees or management to assist in determining contents of dumpster.
3. Safety
  - a. All members involved in operation shall be in full protective clothing, including SCBA.
  - b. Operate with wind at back, if possible.
  - c. Contents in dumpster may be water reactive, explosive, or oxidizing agent.
  - d. Be aware of personnel safety during overhaul procedures.
  - e. May have to decontaminate clothing, equipment, and apparatus.
  - f. Any member experiencing any unusual feeling, tightness in the chest, nausea, etc., should receive medical attention immediately (this includes any fires).
4. Fire Control
  - a. Remove bystanders from area.
  - b. Attack fire upwind with 1 ¾" or larger hose line.
  - c. A deck gun or elevated master stream may be utilized dependent on fire conditions present to the responders.
    1. A quint or ladder should not be limited to using handlines, especially if the contents of the dumpster are unknown or are suspected to be hazardous, i.e. meth lab byproducts. The use of a ladder/elevated stream may present a safer approach to extinguishment.
  - d. If dumpster is up against building you may want to move it to open area, if possible. If unable to move check for extension and exposure protection. Consider 1<sup>st</sup> Alarm Assignment, for exposure protection.
  - e. If inside building, it is a structure fire.
  - f. Consider water supply problems.
5. Containment
  - a. It may be necessary to control run-off if substance is hazardous material.
  - b. Dike material may be necessary.
  - c. If hazardous materials are present, contact and coordinate with appropriate agency(s).