

Union County Standard Operating Guidelines
Fireground Operations

Fireground Operations, SOG 3.30

DUMPSTER FIRES

1. Intent and Purpose

To provide a safe and effective method of handling fires in dumpsters. These guidelines also apply to Cardboard compactor and trash truck fires.

2. Procedure

- Attempt to determine what is burning.
- Contact employees or management to assist in determining contents of dumpster.

3. Safety

- All members directly involved in operations shall be in full protective clothing, including SCBA.
- Operate with wind at back, if possible.
- Contents in dumpster may be water reactive, explosive, or oxidizing agent.
- Be aware of personnel safety during overhaul procedures.
- May have to decontaminate clothing, equipment, and apparatus.
- Any member experiencing any unusual feeling, tightness in the chest, nausea, etc., should receive medical attention immediately.

4. Fire Control

- Remove bystanders from area.
- Attack fire from upwind position with 1 ¾" or larger hose line.
- A deck gun or elevated master stream may be utilized as conditions warrant, especially if the contents of the dumpster are unknown or are suspected to be hazardous.
- If dumpster is up against building, you may want to move it to an open area (if possible). If unable to move, check for extension and exposure protection. Consider 1st Alarm Assignment for exposure protection.
- If inside building, it is a structure fire.
- Consider water supply problems.

5. Containment

- It may be necessary to control run-off if substance is hazardous material.
- Dike material may be necessary.
- If hazardous materials are present, contact and coordinate with appropriate agency(s).