

Egg Harbor Fire Department and First Responders Standard Operating Guidelines

SUBJECT: DUMPSTER FIRES

SOG 819

PURPOSE: To provide a safe and effective method of handling fires in dumpsters. These guidelines should also handle cardboard compactor and trash truck fires.

SCOPE: This policy shall apply to all members of the Egg Harbor Fire Department.

PROCEDURE

- a. Give the exact location of the incident if different from the one given by dispatch and a complete size-up report.
- b. Attempt to determine what is burning.
- c. Contact employees or management to assist in determining contents of dumpster.
- d. Perform a Risk Management Analysis.

SAFETY

- a. All members involved in operation shall be in full protective clothing, including SCBA.
- b. Operate up wind, 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).

FIRE CONTROL

- a. Remove bystanders from area.
- b. No water will be put into the dumpster due to the possibility of hazardous materials and the dangers to the firefighters.
- c. If extinguishment of the fire **is necessary** consider using dry chemical or attack fire upwind with 1 ¾" or larger hose line.
- 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 Mutual Aid, for exposure protection.
- e. If inside building, it is a structure fire.
- f. Consider a water supply source.

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).

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