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|  | FLINT HILL FIRE DEPARTMENT  **STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINE** |

**Guideline Number:**  410.10

**Guideline Title:** Dumpster Fire

**Adopted:** 02/12/2024

**Rescinds:** New

**Approved By: (Chief)**

1. **PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this guideline is to establish a guide for the safe and efficient extinguishment of dumpster fires. These guidelines should also handle cardboard compactor and trash truck fires.

1. **DISCUSSION:**

Dumpster fires can provide firefighters with a wide range of tactical and safety concerns. The contents of a dumpster fire and unknown contents must be analyzed and addressed at a dumpster fire incident. Life safety is always the first consideration. Once it is determined there is no threat to life, fire suppression and exposure protection should be established. Minimizing damage to property should be considered through effective use of salvage and overhaul techniques.

**GUIDELINE:**

The following guideline is in the recommended order of implementation, reflecting the relative priorities on a dumpster fire.

1. The appropriate apparatus should respond to the location quickly with due regard for the safety of others. Position the apparatus uphill and upwind, if possible (SOG 400.04 APPARATUS RESPONSE).
2. Incident Command (IC) should be implemented following (SOG 402.01 INCIDENT COMMAND).
3. All personnel must don proper Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). Minimum PPE for all firefighters working in the hazard zone should be in full turnout gear and self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA). Other personnel on the scene should wear appropriate PPE for their assignment.
4. When the fire threatens exposures, the rescue of humans overrides all other strategic considerations, and evacuation may need to be considered.
5. Remove bystanders from area.
6. Operate with wind at your back, if possible.
7. Attempt to determine what is burning.
   1. Contents in the dumpster may be water reactive, explosive, or oxidizing agent
   2. Contact employees or management to assist in determining contents of dumpster.
8. If dumpster is on wheels, chock or secure the dumpster.
9. If dumpster is up against a building
   1. Move into an open area away from building, if possible.
   2. Check the building for wall breaches or other avenues where fire may have extended into the building
   3. Consider gaining access to the structure to check for extension
   4. Consider contacting Fire Com and changing call type to “Working Structure Fire” (refer to SOG 410.04 STRUCTURE FIRE).
   5. A dumpster inside a building will require a structure fire response. (SOG 410.04 STRUCTURE FIRE)
10. For fire extinguishment, use a 1 ¾” hose line or larger.
11. It may be necessary to control run-off if the substance is a hazardous material. (refer to SOG 410.08 HAZARDOUS MATERIALS).
    1. Dike material may be necessary.
    2. If hazardous materials are present, contact and coordinate with appropriate agency(s). Contact Fire Com for Emergency Management.
12. After the incident, department apparatus and equipment should be ready for service, (Refer to SOG 403.07 RETURNING APPARATUS TO SERVICE).

**Tactical Considerations**

1. Consider a water supply source
2. Watch for electrical wires
3. Consider the use of foam
4. Decontaminate clothing, equipment, and apparatus if exposed