

Santa Barbara City Fire Department - Standard Operating Procedures Emergency Operations	Code: E-XIV-2
Dumpster Fires	
Chpt: XIV Miscellaneous Calls	Revised: 7/1/12 Pages: 2

I. PURPOSE

- A. To provide a safe and effective method of handling fires in industrial dumpsters.

II. POLICY

- A. In the event of an industrial dumpster fire, the following procedure shall be followed.

III. SAFETY

- A. All members involved in the operation shall be in full structure PPE (See [S-IV-2](#) Structure PPE), including self-contained breathing apparatus.
- B. Operate with wind at your back, if possible.
- C. Contents in the dumpster may be water reactive, explosive or oxidizing agent.
- D. Be especially aware of personnel safety during overhaul procedures. Watch for sharp objects.
- E. Decontaminate clothing, equipment and apparatus if exposed.
- F. If dumpster is on wheels, chock or secure the dumpster.

IV. PROCEDURE

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

V. FIRE CONTROL

- A. Attack fire from upwind.
- B. 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.
- C. Consider the use of foam or other wetting agents.

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D. Consider water supply problems

E. Watch for electrical wires

VI. CONTAINMENT

A. It may be necessary to control run-off if substance is hazardous material.

B. Dike building material may be necessary, such as sand, potash, soda ash.

C. If hazardous materials are present, contact and coordinate with appropriate law enforcement agency, and request Hazmat 1 when needed.