

**Sanoca Rural Fire District, Inc.**  
**STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES**  
**Emergency Operations**

**Fire Company Operations**

**Subject: Dumpster Fires**

Revised: May 10, 2003

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**PURPOSE**

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

**POLICY**

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

**PROCEDURE**

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

**SAFETY**

- A. All members involved in operation shall be in full protective clothing, including self-contained breathing apparatus.
- B. Operate with wind at your back, if possible.
- C. Contents in dumpster may be water reactive, explosive or oxidizing agent.
- D. Should be especially 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.

**FIRE CONTROL**

- A. Remove bystanders from area.
- B. Attack fire from upwind.
- C. If dumpster is up against a building you may want to move into an open area, if possible.
- D. Consider water supply problems.

**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.
- C. If hazardous materials are present, contact and coordinate with Emergency Management.

