

## COMMERCIAL/CONSTRUCTION DUMPSTER FIRES

### Purpose:

To provide a safe and effective method of handling fires in commercial/construction dumpsters.

### Guidelines:

- 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 the operation shall be in full protective clothing, including SCBA.
- B. Operate with the wind at your back, if possible.
- C. Contents of the dumpster may be water reactive, explosive or an oxidizing agent.
- D. Personnel safety during overhauling operations should be a top priority.
- E. Decontamination of clothing, equipment and apparatus may be necessary.
- 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 side, if possible.
- C. If the dumpster is up against a building you may want to move it into an open area, if possible. Make sure the fire has not spread to the building before returning to service.
- D. Consider water supply problems.

### Containment:

- A. It may be necessary to control run-off if the material involved is hazardous.
- B. Dike building material may be necessary, such as sand, potash, soda ash.
- C. If hazardous materials are present, contact and coordinate with the Office of Emergency Management, Boone County.