

	Terryville Fire Department Best Practices	
	<u>Subject</u> Dumpster / Debris Fires	BP# 3-08
	<u>Authority</u> Chief of Department	Initiated 9/1/2016 Revised

A. PURPOSE

1. These best practices have been established to ensure the proper response and safety of our members when dispatched to dumpster and debris fires.

B. GENERAL GUIDELINES / CONSIDERATIONS

1. All members shall comply with the Respiratory Standards (BP# 1-06) along with all other safety related best practices.
2. Reflective safety vests should only be worn by support personnel (traffic, EMS, etc.) and not by personnel conducting fire suppression activities.

B. OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES

1. Apparatus Placement

- a. To afford protection from hazardous liquids and vapors and to reduce smoke in the work area, apparatus should be placed upwind and uphill of the incident when possible.
- b. Although these type fires typically do not occur on roadways, consideration must be given to using an apparatus as a barrier to shield the incident scene and the pump operator from traffic hazards.
- c. Warning lights should be left on, in conjunction with the use of traffic cones or flares when needed to close of parking lots, etc.
- d. A second engine or Fire Police may be used as a safety barrier to protect the first due engine.

2. Water Supply

- a. Water of sufficient quantity, flow rate, and pressure should be used to meet suppression objectives and ensure firefighter safety.

- b. The type hose line used will normally be decided by the engine officer based on the size-up information provided by the Incident Commander.

3. Fire Attack

- a. Attempt to attack fire from upwind when possible.
- b. If dumpster or debris is against a building or other exposure, consider move it if possible (wheeled dumpsters). If unable to move it, check for extension and protect exposures.
- c. If dumpster or debris is located within a building, immediately notify the dispatcher and treat it as a structure fire.

4. Hazard & Safety Considerations

- a. It may be necessary to control run-off if substances within dumpster are hazardous materials.
- b. If hazardous materials are present, request the Town of Brookhaven Fire Marshal to respond and consider a possible Town of Brookhaven Haz-Mat Team response.
- c. Personnel should avoid climbing into dumpsters unless absolutely necessary.
- d. Personnel should operate as if all dumpsters contain unknown or hazardous materials until proven otherwise.

C. POST EMERGENCY OPERATIONS

1. Consider notification to Town of Brookhaven Fire Marshal for instances where the origin of fire is unknown or suspicious in nature.