

# DUMPSTER FIRES

## KEY CONSIDERATIONS:

- Park UPHILL AND UPWIND whenever possible.
- What is in the dumpster? What kind of facility are you at?
  - Dumpsters at **exotic locations** (metal foundry / industrial facility / mills) have **exotic contents** – watch out and be careful with water application.
- Always apply water from a distance to start, no need to walk up right away.
- BE READY FOR ANYTHING. **THERE IS NOTHING WORTH SAVING IN A DUMPSTER!**
- Large containers or challenging overhaul scenarios– think about water supply and additional companies early.

## PROTOCOLS:

1. **Respond CODE 3** unless absolutely confirmed to be away from all exposures.
2. **There is nothing worth saving in a dumpster.** Approach cautiously every time.
3. Extinguish dumpster or protect exposures first? Both?
4. ALWAYS apply water from a distance to start when water is indicated.
5. Consider foam and dry chemical agents.
6. SCBA use is MANDATORY when approaching and working in close proximity to the vessel.
7. Take note if extinguishment is difficult – ask **WHY?**
8. Use remote extinguishment techniques whenever possible.
9. Overhaul thoroughly.
10. Call for Duty Investigator.

## Hazards to Consider:

- May contain Class A materials to propane tanks to hazardous materials – **anything is possible.**
- Every dumpster fire is a potential bomb.
- Exotic metals (white smoke and white flames, generally violent reactions when water is applied).