



**ARCADIA FIRE DEPARTMENT  
STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINE**

**DUMPSTER FIRES**

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**Approved:** \_\_\_\_\_  
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**PURPOSE**

The purpose of this procedure is to provide a safe and effective method of handling fires in dumpsters. This includes trash compactors at Westfield Shopping Center.

**RESPONSIBILITY**

Officers shall ensure that all members comply with this guideline, to ensure the safety of personnel operating in and around dumpster fires.

**PROCEDURE**

**A. SAFETY**

1. All members involved in suppression operations shall be in full protective clothing, including SCBA.
2. Operate upwind from fire, if possible.
3. Understand that a dumpster is storage for unregulated trash and that the contents may be water reactive, explosive or have oxidizing agents in them.
4. Any member experiencing any unusual signs and symptoms after extinguishing a dumpster fire shall receive medical attention.
5. If hazardous materials are present, contact and coordinate with the Arcadia Police Department and Los Angeles County Health Haz-Mat, and/or Area C Haz-Mat units if needed.
6. All equipment and PPE shall be decontaminated before being placed back into service or used.

**B. EXTINGUISHMENT**

1. Fire control shall be conducted using no less than a 1-1/2" hose line.
2. If the dumpster is up against a building, it should be moved when possible into an open area away from building to prevent possible extension to the building.
3. All by-standers shall be removed from the area.
4. An attempt should be made to determine what is burning by contacting the occupancy using the dumpster.
5. Consider water run off as a potential hazardous material.

**C. WESTFIELD SHOPPING CENTER**

1. The roll-up doors can be opened by key or manually (Mall security has the key).
2. There are 10 trash compactors on site.
3. Each compactor has 2 1/2" hose ports bilaterally on the top of the compactor for filling the compactor with water.
4. To remove, shut down breaker to compactor and disconnect hydraulic hoses (quick release).
5. Use tow strap on back of engine to pull compactor out of building, and be prepared with a chock block to stop the compactor from rolling, compactors do not have brakes.