ESCAMBIA COUNTY FIRE-RESCUE   **4100.030**
Standard Operating Guidelines   **Trash Fires**
Implemented: 01-14-06

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Revised:
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PURPOSE

Trash fires can provide firefighters with a wide range of tactical and safety concerns. The contents of a trash fire, and unknown contents must be analyzed and addressed at a trash fire incident.

OBJECTIVE

To provide personnel with guidelines that identify safe and effective operating methods at the scene of trash fire incidents.

SCOPE

All Personnel

DEPLOYMENT

This may or may not be an emergency response. Based upon information received from dispatch, the company officer may elect to respond with or without lights and sirens. Information such as the size of the trash fire and its proximity to buildings and/or other property, at a minimum should be considered. A single engine or brush truck from the jurisdictional station shall respond. This may be upgraded based on pre-arrival information received from dispatch, or upon conditions found upon arrival at the scene.

PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

Personnel shall wear all personal protective equipment while extinguishing trash fires. Self-contained breathing apparatus shall be used if the company officer can not be determine whether toxic or hazardous materials are present and involved.

OPERATIONS

INCIDENT MANAGEMENT

Personnel shall operate utilizing guidelines contained in **3105.005 (Incident Management)** The incident commander must determine if any hazardous materials are involved, and if so, treat the scene as a hazardous materials incident.

APPARATUS PLACEMENT

Apparatus should be parked for best advantage, upwind and uphill of the incident to afford protection from hazardous liquids and vapors and to reduce smoke in the work area.

RESCUE

Where the fire threatens exposures, the rescue of humans overrides all other strategic considerations, and evacuation may need to be considered.

EXPOSURE PROTECTION
Exposure protection must be considered and addressed where the spread of fire from the trash pile to a structure, vehicle, wildland area, or other property is likely.

If necessary, the initial hoseline shall be deployed to protect and cool exposures to the point where the line may then be used for confinement and extinguishment, or until an additional hoseline can be deployed for fire confinement and extinguishment.

CONFINEMENT
Confinement of the fire to the trash pile shall be a tactical objective. Firefighters shall make access to and attack trash fires in a method that causes the least amount of damage to private property and prevents extension of the fire to any exposures.

EXTINGUISHMENT
In most cases, water application at the seat of the fire will quickly extinguish trash fires.

Attack fire from upwind.

Trash lines, private garden hoses, or water extinguishers can be used for most trash fires. However, larger hoselines may need to be deployed for large uncontrolled fires that threaten exposures.

OVERHAUL
Ensure that the trash fire has been extinguished. "Stir" the contents with a hand tool if necessary to ensure deep-seated fires are completely extinguished

SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS
Attack the fire from upwind to afford protection from possible hazardous liquids, vapors and smoke.

Be mindful that the contents of a trash fire may be water reactive, explosive or an oxidizing agent.

Be extremely aware of personnel safety during overhaul procedures. The exact contents of trash fires are not always known.

Firefighters may have to decontaminate clothing, equipment and apparatus if exposed to hazardous materials.

Seek immediate medical care if any firefighter experiences any unusual feeling, tightness in the chest, nausea, etc.

NOTIFICATIONS
Persons that are not cooperative with fire department personnel regarding the extinguishment of illegal trash fires, or persons that repeatedly ignite and utilize illegal trash fires shall be reported to County Code Enforcement through dispatch.