



Safety Bulletin

Situational Awareness – Trash Fires

Date: February 12, 2019

Number: 19.002

Effective Date: February 12, 2019

Expiration Date: N/A

Approved By: Mark S. Ciarrocca, Acting Fire Rescue Chief

On January 31st, 2019 units were dispatched to a commercial vehicle fire at 12067 Marsh Rd. A garbage truck making a “routine” pickup, reported an explosion followed by fire inside of the collection area and drove to 12067 Marsh Rd. (Company 13). At that time the collection area was emptied onto the ground and the fire was extinguished.

An examination of the contents revealed an oxygen cylinder had been discarded along the route at an unknown address and after the compactor was operated back and forth, it exploded at a stop on Marsh Road. The force from the explosion was so powerful the employee operating the can lift on the side of the truck was blown back several feet and to the ground. Debris from the trash can went as far as 58 feet from the truck.

Below is a picture of the oxygen cylinder showing just how powerful this type of blast can be and could have been deadly. The employee was transported to Fauquier Hospital POV and treated for trauma to the eardrum with some loss of hearing.

Please let this serve as a reminder to always use caution while handling these cylinders and keep them secure at all times.



Questions regarding this bulletin should be directed to Captain Russell Baker.