

## KEEP DUMPSTERS 5 FEET AWAY FROM COMBUSTIBLE WALLS, EAVES, OR OPENINGS

### CODE SECTIONS

*International Fire Code 2006 Edition*

**304.3.3 Capacity exceeding 1.5 cubic yards.** Dumpsters and containers with an individual capacity of 1.5 cubic yards (40.5 cubic feet) (1.15 m<sup>3</sup>) or more shall not be stored in buildings or placed within 5 feet (1524 mm) of combustible walls, openings or combustible roof eave lines.

**Exceptions:**

1. Dumpsters or containers in areas protected by an approved automatic sprinkler system installed throughout in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1, 903.3.1.2 or 903.3.1.3.
2. Storage in a structure shall not be prohibited where the structure is of Type I or Type IIA construction, located not less than 10 feet (3,048 mm) from other buildings and used exclusively for dumpster or container storage.

### EXPLANATION

Trash dumpsters cannot be stored in a building unless the building is fully equipped with an automatic fire sprinkler system. Dumpsters must also be stored at least 5 feet from a building unless the building, including the eaves, is of fire-resistive construction or by locating a fire sprinkler head, connected to either the automatic fire sprinkler system or to the domestic water supply, over the trash dumpster.

### RATIONALE

Trash dumpster fires are very common. They are usually started by carelessly discarded items such as cigarettes, or by vandalism. These fires are so common and usually cause very little fire damage that they are classified as "nuisance" fires. By locating your trash dumpster either away from the building or by protecting the building with automatic fire sprinklers, we hope to keep a "nuisance" fire, the dumpster fire, from spreading to your building.