

## FIREFIGHTER KILLED IN EXPLOSION INVOLVING A DUMPSTER FIRE.

AT LEAST 9 OTHER FIREFIGHTERS INJURED.

*Factory explosion kills firefighter. One firefighter from the Saint Anna Fire Department is dead and six others are injured after an explosion at a factory. Crews were called to the scene of a dumpster fire at Bremer Manufacturing in St. Anna after a patrol man noticed a fire around 7:20 Tuesday night. Something in the dumpster exploded while firefighters were working to put out the fire. The cause of the explosion is unknown at this time. The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, State Marshals and the Calumet Co. Sheriff's department are investigating. Representatives from Theda Clark say the Theda Star helicopter transported one firefighter to Theda Clark Hospital in Neenah, where he is listed in critical condition. Five others were taken to the hospital in Chilton with non-life threatening injuries. The Calumet County Sheriff described the scene Tuesday night as "A routine fire call, I guess you could call it, which turned deadly." About twenty minutes after seven o'clock Tuesday night, a Calumet County patrol officer saw a dumpster fire near Bremer Manufacturing. He contacted the St. Anna volunteer Fire Department. "We do not know what caused the fire in the first place," the sheriff said. "It was in some 55 gallon barrels which were near the dumpster or inside the dumpster and as the firemen were trying to extinguish the fire the explosion occurred...One fireman from the St. Anna fire department was killed and six others were injured."*

*Source: [http://www.fox11online.com/dpp/news/local/fox\\_cities/Dumpster-explosion-kills-firefighter](http://www.fox11online.com/dpp/news/local/fox_cities/Dumpster-explosion-kills-firefighter)*

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Authorities say a trash bin outside a Wisconsin foundry exploded, killing one firefighter and injuring at least nine others.

Calumet County Sheriff Gerald Pagel says it's not clear what caused the blast Tuesday evening. Joyce Casper, a dispatcher with the sheriff's department, says nine firefighters were injured in the explosion.

The trash bin is outside Bremer Manufacturing near rural St. Anna.

Pagel says a patrol officer saw a fire on the Bremer grounds Tuesday about 7:20 p.m. and called the fire department.

Neighbors tell The Post-Crescent of Appleton they heard an explosion that shook homes, cracked walls and sent a plume of white smoke into the sky.

Calumet County Deputy Brett Bowe says a 33-year-old firefighter died at the scene. At this point investigators believe metal by-products from the foundry at Bremer Manufacturing were in the dumpster. Officials believe they reacted with water and exploded. The specific metals have not been identified.

Photos here: <http://www.htrnews.com/apps/pbcs.dll/gallery?Avis=U0&Dato=20091230&Kategori=APCN EWS&Lopenr=912300806&Ref=PH>

More info on the investigation here: <http://www.wbay.com/Global/story.asp?S=11749363>

<http://www.sheboyganpress.com/article/20091230/SHE0101/912300422>

Fire officers and firefighters must be constantly aware that dangerous items and/or hazardous materials may be involved in any emergency response. What is in the Dumpster or trash bin? What could be in the trunk of the car, or the back of the pick-up truck? What might a homeowner store in the garage? The list is near endless. Items that may be encountered include; propane tanks or cylinders, gasoline cans, paint and thinners, ammunition, cleaning chemicals, pesticides, fertilizers, insecticides, aerosol cans, cleaning solvents, and much more. Dumpsters and trash bins at mercantile, industrial, and manufacturing facilities may contain larger amounts of similar materials in addition to waste products from manufacturing processes. Many dumpsters and trash bins might be used for illegal and improper disposal of these hazards.

Remember, there is no such thing as a “routine” fire. Always consider what is at risk versus what you are willing to risk. Maintain safe distances until all hazards have been identified and mitigated. Know the businesses and facilities in your response area. What might be found in their trash receptacles? Always remember that the facility might not be the only ones using the trash bin. Dumpsters at commercial facilities are often used by those seeking to illegally dispose of hazardous items that otherwise may be required to be disposed of by special handling. Maintain Operational Awareness. Every response has the potential to cause injury, or worse.



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