

After Action Review: 3994 S. Syracuse Way



Date: 1/7/2017

Time: 23:48

Incident Number: 17-0002735

Address: 3994 S. Syracuse Way

Overview:

Crews were dispatched to 7621 E. Nassau. Upon arrival, they found nothing showing but did smell smoke in the area. Inside crews found a smell of smoke and the lights were flickering. T19 discovered a fire at 3994 S. Syracuse Way while they were staged and crews quickly redeployed to this address. TR22 stayed on scene until it was determined there was no hazard at the original address. Engine 22 dropped their original supply line and laid a new supply line to the Syracuse address. Initial reports were that the fire was on the main level and there were possibly 2 occupants inside; one elderly and one blind. Command was established and an aggressive attack and search was deployed. The occupants were not inside the structure. The fire was knocked in 15 minutes but crews continued to chase hot spots and spot fires for about an hour.

Risk vs Benefit: Ordinary construction single family residence with heavy smoke and reports of parties inside lead to an aggressive interior attack.

Units Initially Dispatched: D03, D04, E13, E24, E22, T19, T16, R01, OPS2

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First Arriving Unit(s): TR22 and E22 first to reported address, T19 first to address of the actual fire.

Additional Units Requested:

Air/light, Arson. Engine 5 and Engine 16 added to relieve crews.

Initial Assignments:

IC: D03 **RIT:** TR22 **Safety Officer:** OPS 2

Engine 13: Water Supply and Attack Line **R01:** Remove Bars on Basement Windows

Engine 24: Back-up Line to the Alpha Side **Engine 22:** Back-up Line to the Charlie Side

Truck 19 and Truck 16: Primary Search

Initial Strategy: Offensive Interior Attack

Initial Supply Line:

Number and Size of Lines: 2 Lines from 2 Engines, 3 inch and 5 inch

Supply Engine: Engine 22 and Engine 13 **Humat:** Yes

Attack Line(s): 1 ¾”

Back-up Line: Two 1 ¾”

Was the building laddered: Yes **2 Means of egress:** Yes

Building Size, Type, Number of Stories, and Occupancy: 2000 Sq. Ft (approx.) Tri-Level residential. Ordinary construction.

Involvement Upon Arrival and Initial Location of Fire: Initially stated there heavy smoke showing and on the main floor.

Communications: TAC 3

Special Challenges, Hazards, and Safety Issues: Bars on the basement windows, sagging floor at the main entrance and reported hoarder conditions inside.

Command Structure:

IC: Chief 3

Safety Officer: OPS2

RIT: TR22

Other assignments:

- All other units operated as Single Resources, Span of Control for IC was 1:7.

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Evaluation and Summary

- 1. Tactical Priorities**
- 2. Positive Outcomes**
- 3. Additional Considerations**
- 4. Recommendations**
- 5. Safety considerations**

Tactical Priorities:

Offensive Interior Attack, priorities of Locate, Confine, Extinguish, and Primary Search to locate 2 reported occupants.

Positive Outcomes:

Companies were originally dispatched to an address where the occupants smelled smoke in their home and the lights were flickering which were conditions caused by a fire in a neighboring house. Crews quickly redeployed and made an aggressive attack. Engine 22 cut their original supply line and laid into the corrected address. While conducting a primary search on the second floor the Charlie and Delta members of Truck 19 recognized that their original means of egress was cut off. Charlie and Delta made the decision to shut the bedroom door behind them and exit via a ladder from the second-floor bedroom window. The hazard of the floor sagging at the main entrance was announced and two other means of entrance and egress were utilized to accomplish the overall strategic plan.

Additional Considerations/Recommendations:

Incident Commanders should always take into consideration a second means of egress. By laddering the second floor the crew members of Truck 19 could safely exit the structure when they felt their original means of egress was compromised. The span of control was 7:1 which may have added to some confusion and/or overlap in assignments such as at one point 3 companies were assigned to a primary search. The floor layout was open and Engine 22 was in a position to protect the stairs from their Charlie side vantage point but did not see the fire T19 crew members stated was cutting off their means of egress. Engine 13 and Engine 24 crews were both assigned to fire attack and one of those crews could have been assigned to protect the stairs also. The recommendation in a situation such as this is to dedicate one company to stairway protection.

Safety considerations:

The floor at the main door was sagging and this was broadcast over the radio. Crews were directed to enter and exit from either the Charlie side patio door or the door to the garage. Crews reported hoarder conditions inside which hindered operations. The report of parties possibly inside was one of the main considerations of the incident commander when deciding if this would be an offensive or defensive fire.

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Summary:

Companies responded to the initial calling address and had to transition to the location directly behind this residence. Tower 22 stayed at the original address until it was determined that there was no hazard at this location which caused them to go from the first Truck on scene to the last Truck thus becoming the RIT team. While the temptation to just cut and run may have been there for Tower 22 they were professional in how they addressed the situation. The Charlie and Delta team members of Truck 19 utilized their training and stayed clam when they felt their original means of egress was cut off. They stated that they knew they could shut the bedroom door and exit safely via a ladder. The call to ladder the second floor was the correct one and aided in turning this into a non-issue. Neighbors reported two occupants living there and an aggressive search was deployed. It was later discovered that the parties were not inside and possibly only used this structure for storage. The fire appeared to originate in the basement and extend to the upper floors through a chase. Crews did an excellent job of locating and extinguishing this fire. Protection of stair ways should always be a consideration and members following crews up stairways should position themselves so as to protect this means of egress. The fire was in a void space in the wall running from the basement to the second floor.



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