

## After Action Review: 4728 Vine St.



**Date:** 12/26/16      **Time:** 20:08      **Incident Number:** 16-0137862

**Address:** 4728 Vine St.

**Overview:** Engine 9 was dispatched, by themselves initially, to investigate a report of a possible explosion at 47<sup>th</sup> and Vine. Dispatch began to receive multiple calls of not only an explosion but gunfire in the area so Dispatch added Tower 9 and Chief 6 to the incident. Chief 6 verified that police were responding and communicated that all companies should use caution. Dispatch also reported receiving calls of vehicles exploding in the area. Engine 9 arrived at the hydrant at 47<sup>th</sup> and Vine, asked Dispatch for a Group Response based on heavy smoke and fire behind a residence, and deployed a 3" supply line down the alley (believing the fire to be in the back yard or garage near the alley). Engine 9 found that access to the rear of the address was cut off by an 8' corrugated steel locked gate and asked for truck assistance gaining entry to the gate. Engine 9 also reported that the fire was outside of the structure but that the Charlie side of the structure was involved. Soon after, Tower 9 arrived on scene on the Alpha side, reported a single-family residence with heavy smoke showing and what appeared to be fire behind the structure in a garage. TR09 also reported that there was a burn victim out front on the Alpha side and that the burn victim stated that all parties were out of the residence.

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**Overview (cont'd):** Tower 9 Bravo was sent to assist E09 with forcible entry through the Charlie side gate. Just prior to Chief 6's arrival Tower 9 reported flames now showing from Alpha side of the residence with the Charlie side being fully involved. Chief 6 arrived on scene, assumed Command, and assigned the next Engine (E10) to the Alpha side to extend a line for extinguishment since Engine 9 was delayed on the Charlie side and because the Alpha side was the unburned side. E10 extended an attack line in the Alpha side and began extinguishment of the fire. TR09 and T04 were assigned to complete a Primary search as well as horizontal vent from inside the structure. Rescue 1 was assigned and completed vertical ventilation. Engine 9 extinguished the fire in the back yard as well as heavy fire in an addition on the Charlie side of the structure, E09 used caution during extinguishment due to the possibility of having opposing streams with E10 on the interior. Safety hazards encountered were power lines down, an illegal hash oil extraction operation, large amounts of furniture/ personal items inside (not quite hoarding conditions), and spongy floors in certain areas. The fire was extinguished and Arson remained on scene with DPD to investigate.

**Risk vs Benefit:** Older construction (1930 to 40's era) wood frame construction with no apparent structural damage (from reported explosion) led Companies to declare an offensive interior attack.

**Units Initially Dispatched:** E09

**First Arriving Unit(s):** E09

**Additional Units Requested:** TR09 and Chief 6 added by Dispatch prior to E09 arriving on scene then the balance of a first alarm added soon after (E03, E10, T04, T08 RIT, R01, Chief 2 and Ops 2)

### **Initial Assignments:**

**IC:** Chief 6                      **RIT:** Truck 8                      **Safety Officer:** Ops2

**Engine 9:** Attack line Charlie side

**E10:** Attack line Alpha side

**E03:** Backup line Alpha side

**TR09:** Primary Search/ Horizontal Vent

**T04:** Primary Search/Horizontal Vent

**Rescue 1:** Vertical ventilation

**Initial Strategy:** Offensive Interior Attack

### **Initial Supply Line:**

**Number and Size of Lines:** One 3"    **Supply Engine:** E09    **Humat:** Yes

**Attack Line(s):** Two 1 ¾" (one on Alpha side, one on Charlie side)

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**Back-up Line:** One 2 ½” on Alpha side

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

**Building Size, Type, Number of Stories, and Occupancy:** 1 story, frame, single family residence

**Involvement Upon Arrival and Initial Location of Fire:** Heavy smoke showing on Alpha side, heavy fire that appeared to be exterior on Charlie side

**Communications:** TAC 6

**Special Challenges, Hazards, and Safety Issues:** Huge amount of conflicting information from incoming 911 calls (one large explosion, several small explosions, vehicles exploding, shots fired) all relayed to Companies enroute. Evidence on scene indicated that this fire was related to an illegal hash oil extraction operation (a large amount of small, consumer use sized butane cans on the exterior Charlie side). Other hazards included power lines down and spongy floors.

## **Command Structure:**

**IC:** Chief 6

**Safety Officer:** Ops2

**RIT:** Truck 8

## **Other assignments:**

- All companies operated as Single Resources, Span of Control for the IC was 1:7 (within ideal range)

## **Evaluation and Summary**

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

**Tactical Priorities:** Extinguishment, Search, and Ventilation

**Positive Outcomes:** IC and Companies did an excellent job of evaluating a whole range of response information, ascertaining what was occurring at this incident, and employing the appropriate tactics.

IC recognized that the first in Engine (Engine 9) was having access difficulties and, through no fault of their own, ended up on the burning side of the structure. IC had the next in Engine company (Engine 10) attack from the unburned side but still utilized Engine 9, cautiously to avoid opposing lines, to extinguish fire in the outside rear of the building as well as parts of the interior on the Charlie side. Engine 9 recognized the possibility of opposing lines and applied water accordingly.

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**Additional Considerations:** Heavy smoke conditions were encountered in this structure due to weather conditions on the night of this fire, as well as materials involved. Engine 10's officer found it very difficult to find all of the interior fire as well as very difficult to visualize interior Truck crew members with thermal imagers who could assist with determining the fire's location.

**Recommendations:** Distribution of thermal imaging cameras (TIC's) to Engine Companies would be very beneficial in similar incidents. The DFD is currently testing several mask-mounted thermal imagers in an effort to expand the TIC inventory.

**Safety considerations:** Two common characteristics regarding emergencies involving illegal hash oil extraction operations which were encountered at this incident are;

- A large initial explosion (often mistaken as being the result of a natural gas leak, at times resulting in structural damage)
- Minor explosions occurring during the incident as small cans of butane explode (this is sometimes mistaken for gun fire).

In addition, the main power line to the house had burned through and was hanging across a fence in the backyard and interior crews encountered some spongy floor areas. All hazards were assessed, communicated, and appropriate actions and tactics were taken.

**Summary:** Initial calls to Dispatch for this incident escalated quickly from a possible explosion to reports of a large explosion, gunshots in the area, and cars exploding. The response was quickly upgraded to a full structure fire response and arriving Companies quickly ascertained what was occurring at this address and what hazards existed. A quick, offensive interior attack was initiated and resulted in fast extinguishment of a fire in a single-story residence. One patient was transported by DHMC for burns. Approximately 100 empty butane cans were found on the Charlie side exterior, Arson and the FPB responded to investigate an illegal hash oil extraction operation at this address.