

After Action Review: 2187 S Depew St



Date: 1/31/17 **Time:** 06:31 **Incident Number:** 17-0011233

Address: 2187 S Depew St

Overview: Companies responded to a reported fire in an apartment; numerous calls from other callers enroute reported visible fire showing from the 3rd floor of a 3-story building in addition to parties trapped in an adjacent apartment. E25, first on scene, reported fire showing and started an offensive interior attack. T28, next on scene, took Command and started search and rescue operations. As other Companies arrived on scene and extended additional attack lines and assisted with an aggressive interior search, this fire was quickly brought under control and all parties were removed safely from the building. 2 parties were evaluated by DHMC paramedics but were not transported. The occupants of the fire apartment were displaced but all other occupants were able to return to their apartments.

Risk vs Benefit: 3-story, brick veneer wood frame apartments (28 apartments in structure) with fire heavily involving one apartment but not weakening structural components at time of arrival, time of day (0630) indicating high likelihood of occupants, and phone call indicating parties trapped led to declaration of offensive interior attack.

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Units Initially Dispatched: E25, E23, E28, T28, TR23, T16 (RIT), D07, D06, R01, HM01, and Ops2

First Arriving Unit(s): E25

Additional Units Requested: Air/Light, Arson, and PIO

Initial Assignments:

IC: D07

RIT: R01

Safety Officer: Ops2

E25: 1 ¾" Attack Line **E28:** 2 ½" Backup Line **E23:** 1 ¾" Attack Line

T28: Search 3rd Floor **TR23:** Search 3rd Floor **T16:** Search Floors 1 and 2

Initial Strategy: Offensive Interior Attack

Initial Supply Line: E25 one 3" Line with the Humat, E28 on arrival went to work on E25's hydrant. E23 one 3" supply line from secondary water supply.

Attack Line(s): One 1 ¾" handline Bravo side entrance, one 1 ¾" handline Delta side entrance

Back-up Line: One 2 ½" line Bravo side entrance

Was the building laddered: No **2 Means of egress:** 2 stairwells (one Bravo side, 1 Delta side)

Building Size, Type, Number of Stories, and Occupancy: Brick veneer, flat roof, 3 floors, 28 units, apartment building

Involvement Upon Arrival and Initial Location of Fire: One apartment, fire showing from window, top floor, middle of Alpha side

Communications: TAC 7

Special Challenges, Hazards, and Safety Issues: Reported party trapped in adjacent apartment, heavy smoke conditions on top floor, no out-of-the-ordinary safety hazards.

Command Structure:

IC: Chief 7

Safety Officer: Ops 2

RIT: R01

Other assignments:

- All companies were used as Single Resources. The IC's Span of Control was 7:1 (at the high end of ideal range). 5 Companies were operating on the top floor as Single Resources, IC would have implemented a Division in this area but the fire was quickly extinguished and all searches completed quickly as well. Not creating a Division worked at this incident

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but early implementation of a Division at future similar incidents would be beneficial for the IC.

Evaluation and Summary

Tactical Priorities: Offensive Interior Attack with priorities of extinguishment and search/rescue.

Positive Outcomes: Rapid and efficient accomplishment of all tasks resulted in a fast extinguishment of the fire and quick search and evacuation of the building.

Additional Considerations:

- This structure, like many in Denver, could either be considered as a 3-story building or a 2 story with a garden level. Callers reported this building as a 3 story and upon arrival all companies continued to do the same. However, the apartments were labeled as a 2 story with a garden level. The bottom floor (garden level) had apartments labeled 1 through 8, the next level had apartments 11-18, and the top floor had apartments 21-28. As Companies were responding, a caller reported being trapped in apartment 24 which would lead one to believe that, in a 3-story building, they were located on the 2nd floor below the reported 3rd floor fire. Apartment 24 was actually on the top floor next to the fire apartment (apt. 26). Throughout the fire, the IC and all companies continued to refer to this building as a 3 story with fire on the 3rd story. This worked well because all companies had a clear understanding of the building and what terminology was being used. For future incidents, whichever way that the floors are designated in the building or by on scene Companies should be clearly communicated, as was done at this incident, to avoid any confusion.
- Truck 16 was dispatched as the initial RIT. However, Chief 7 had an urgent need for the building to be searched. Chief 7 communicated with Rescue 1 regarding their ETA, realized that they would be on scene soon after Truck 16, and committed Truck 16 to assist with the interior search. Chief 7 communicated to Rescue 1 that they would be the RIT. Because of the thought put into the arrival times of companies and the urgent need for certain tasks to be completed, Chief 7 was able to coordinate activities proficiently with very little negative time impact of designation of an on-scene RIT. For IC's of future incidents, this attention to detail with regard to addressing incident needs without compromising RIT coverage is a skill that should be practiced.
- Arson investigators responded to this incident and were impressed with the level of overhaul completed prior to their arrival. The fire apartment had sustained heavy fire damage yet Companies were very careful with overhaul, thus preserving the scene so that Arson could complete an effective investigation. For future incidents, this same level of detail will assist them greatly.

Recommendations: Companies at this incident completed Engine and Truck Operations very proficiently, continued focus on basic Engine and Truck tasks will help to ensure success at future incidents.

Safety considerations: No unusual safety issues were encountered at this incident.

Summary: Companies responded to a well involved apartment fire at a time of day that guaranteed a high life hazard would be present. In addition to one apartment being involved in fire, heavy smoke conditions existed on the top floor of this building. The fire was quickly extinguished, the

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building was searched, and all occupants were quickly evacuated from the building. Occupants of the fire apartment were displaced but all other occupants were able to return to their apartments.