

## **After Action Review: 965 Pennsylvania**



**Date:** March 30, 2016      **Time:** 2152      **Incident Number:** 16-33168

**Address:** 965 Pennsylvania

**Event Description:** On March 30, 2016 at 2152 hrs. Denver Fire responded to the address of 965 Pennsylvania for a reported structure fire. Upon arrival, Rescue One assumed command and reported a large volume of smoke and fire showing from the first floor, Bravo side of a two-story converted mansion. Engine 8 secured a water supply and laid to the front of the building. Engine 8 was the primary attack line and rapidly deployed an attack line through the Alpha side of the building and began attacking the fire from the unburned side. Engine 11 secured a second water supply as was ordered to the Charlie Division, while Engine 1 was assigned as back-up to Engine 8. Chief 2 arrived on scene and assumed command from Rescue One and assigned Rescue One to a primary search of the first floor. Truck 8 was assigned to the second floor to do a primary search, found a victim and extricated the victim out of the Alpha side to awaiting Denver Health Paramedics. Truck 4 was assigned to roof operations and gave a report of no extension or exposure. Tower 1 was ordered to "empty their beds" and ladder all sides of the building. Finally, Tower 15 was assigned as the RIT and proceeded to remove 12 sets of bars on windows and a few pieces of plywood during the RIT RECON.

The fire was rapidly brought under control and the fire was confined to the first floor, on the Bravo Side in the area of origin.

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**Risk vs Benefit:** Large three story, converted mansion with multiple occupants. Offensive strategy declared.

**Units Initially Dispatched:** R-01, HM1, E11, E8, E1, Tr1, T4, T8, D02, D04, OPS-2, Tr15 RIT

**First Arriving Unit:** R-01

**Initial Assignments:**

**IC:** D02

**RIT:** Tr15

**Safety Officer:** OPS-02

**Engine 8 :** Primary Fire Attack

**Truck 8:** Primary Search 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

**Engine 1:** Back Up to E8

**Truck 4:** Roof Division

**Engine 11:** Secondary Water Supply/Charlie Division

**Tower 1:** Ladder Group

**Rescue One:** Primary Search 1<sup>st</sup> Floor

**HAMER 1:** Air Monitoring

**Initial Strategy:** Offensive

**Initial Supply Line:** 1-3" line with the Humat

**Attack Line:** 1 ¾"

**Back-up Line:** 1 ¾"

**Was the building laddered:** Yes, all four sides **2 Means of egress:** Yes

**Building Size:** Approximately 30 X 50 **Type:** Ordinary Construction

**Occupancy:** Occupied

**Stories:** 3

**Involvement Upon Arrival:** Sunroom, Bravo Side, Fully Involved, smoke on three floors.

**Communications:** TAC-2, Face-to-Face

**Special Challenges:**

- 12 sets of bars found on windows, as well as plywood covering windows during RIT Recon.
- Maze like construction on the interior from renovation. Building laid out on the interior like a "Single Room Occupancy" (SRO).
- Large volume of fire showing with occupants trying to exit the building upon arrival of DFD crews.

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## **Hazards and Safety Issues:**

- 12 sets of bars on windows and plywood covered windows.
- Multiple occupants in building
- Possible collapse hazard identified and addressed by Safety Officer of the fire damaged sunroom. Problem was evaluated and addressed and deemed non-hazardous.

## **Evaluation and Summary**

### **Goal:**

Aggressive, offensive fire attack, confining the fire from the Alpha side of the building to the Bravo side of the building, in coordination with rapid search and removal of occupants.

### **What went well:**

- Initial water supply and initial rig placement
- Ladders rapidly deployed on all four sides of the building
- Deployment of initial attack lines, enhanced rapid extinguishment of fire
- Aggressive search tactics safely removed occupants from building
- Great fireground discipline and integrity of assignments by all members
- Early detection and mitigation of bars on windows by RIT
- Post control critique of the incident conducted by the Incident Commander

### **What could have gone better:**

- Deployment and placement of primary attack line was overestimated by the officer of Engine 8. This resulted in having several kinks in the hose that had to be addressed to allow maximum flow at the nozzle.
- Consideration of engaging the RIT to mitigate identified hazards during the RIT RECON, or assigning a new resource from the Incident Commander and Safety Officer.
- Initial size-up from first arriving units and deployment of resources needs to be succinct and direct.

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## **Evaluation and Summary (cont'd)**

### **Recommendations:**

Operations personnel need to review the Department Standard Operating Guideline, 2110.01, regarding the role of the RIT and the definition of what an effective RIT RECON is.

**Summary:** Overall, the fire attack went extremely well. The coordinated effort from the initial Incident Commander to the first Arriving Chief was seamless and the handoff was well articulated. The coordinated attack effort between the engines on scene and the truck operations helped to bring this event to a close quickly and without injury to on scene firefighters. Decision making by the firefighters on scene and the situational awareness of the Incident Commander made short work of a large fire.

Consideration and review of the RIT policy is currently being discussed and revised regarding the activeness of the RIT team. After the fire, it has been identified that the utilization of the RIT to take 12 bars off windows may have detracted from their RIT mission. If operating as the RIT, it is asked that the company officer articulate the extent of the hazard you have identified and wait for further instruction, or the IC will assign the task to a secondary company other than the RIT team. Review of the current RIT policy and definition of RIT RECON is recommended and needs to be understood that the acronym stands for the following: R-Rescue Plan, E-Egress/Access, C-Construction, O-Outside Survey, N-Nasty Hazards.

