

After Action Review: 2500 Kearney St



Date: 5/5/16 Time: 14:32 Incident Number: 16-0046320

Address: 2500 Kearney St, Denver CO 80207

Summary

- DFD responded to 25th and Kearney and found a single story, single family residence with heavy fire showing from the Charlie side. An Offensive strategy was declared, two 1 ¾” attack lines (with one 2 ½” back-up line) pulled, main body of fire quickly knocked, the residence searched, bars on windows removed, and roof ventilated. Challenges that were encountered were hoarding conditions inside, holes in the floor, unusual floorplan, wires down, and structural members of the roof being burnt out underneath a still intact and normal looking tile roof. Due to the condition of the structure (but yet still needing to extinguish hot spots in the middle of the roof) T26’s aerial master stream was employed for topside hydraulic overhaul. Also, foam was used on the interior to access hotspots in dangerous areas from a distance. Finally, 2 consecutive fire watches were used to ensure that there was not a rekindle (rekindle box was being used on an earlier fire at another location).

Risk vs Benefit:

Single family residence, heavy fire on Charlie side, unknown if occupants inside= offensive strategy chosen

Units Initially Dispatched:

E14, E26, E10, T26, TR15, T19 RIT, Rescue 1, Chief 4, Chief 2, Ops 2

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First Arriving Unit(s):

E14

Additional Units Requested:

T08 added by IC as soon as all initial units were deployed

Initial Assignments:

IC: Chief 4 **RIT:** Truck 19 **Safety Officer:** Ops 2

Chief 2: Information gathering

Engine 14: 1 ¾" line Alpha side **Truck 26:** Forcible entry, Search

Engine 26: 1 ¾" line Charlie side **Tower 15:** Search **R01:** Security bar removal

Engine 10: Backup line (2 ½") Alpha side

Truck 8: Roof ventilation

Initial Strategy:

Offensive

Initial Supply Line:

5" (working at hydrant) # of Lines 1 **Supply Engine:** N/A **Humat:** N/A

Attack Line(s):

Two 1 ¾"

Back-up Line:

One 2 ½"

Was the building laddered:

Yes **2 Means of egress:** Yes

Building Size, Type, Number of Stories, and Occupancy:

- 2000 sq. ft., frame, one story, single family residential

Involvement Upon Arrival and Initial Location of Fire:

- Heavy fire Interior Charlie side

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Communications:

- TAC 4 and Face to Face. Radio channel functioned well with one exception; E14D accidentally activated Emergency Button enroute, the process involved in clearing Emergency Alert while DHMC patch activated resulted in 1 or 2 cut off transmissions.

Special Challenges, Hazards, and Safety Issues:

- EMS radio patch made clearing Emergency Button activation difficult
- Bars on windows
- Hoarding conditions
- Holes in floor
- Wires down
- Tree/bush overgrowth on Bravo side made access/egress difficult
- Unusual building layout and additions made access/extinguishment difficult
- Roof structure had burned through underneath in spots but roof tiles still in place topside
- Crawl space/basement exterior stairs caved in and covered, interior access to basement and conditions in basement unsafe for entry

Command Structure:

IC:

- Chief 4

Safety Officer:

- Ops 2

RIT:

- Truck 19

Other assignments:

- All companies working as single resources. Span of control for IC 1:7. Command structure worked well for this incident.

Evaluation and Summary

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

Tactical Priorities:

- Search for possible occupants, extinguishment of fire.

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Positive Outcomes:

- E14 went to work on a hydrant directly across the street from the residence, this allowed for ideal truck placement on the Alpha side and, later in the fire, allowed for maximum water flow for hydraulic master stream overhaul.
- 2 separate water supplies were quickly established and 2 attack lines pulled.
- Line selection of 1 3/4" proved ideal for maneuvering in a house with hoarding conditions and an unusual floor plan.
- E26 attacked the fire from the Charlie side and, realizing the potential for opposing hose streams, was careful to avoid endangering E14 but yet extinguished a large amount of fire also.
- Chief 4 efficiently assigned companies and asked for an additional truck company to accomplish all tactical goals and benchmarks.
- Search, vertical ventilation, and removal of bars from windows were all completed efficiently by the truck companies and Rescue.
- Many hazards were encountered in this fire but all were identified and avoided.
- Hydraulic master stream overhaul and use of foam were creative solutions to completing overhaul in a dangerous building and worked well

Additional Considerations:

- Accidental activation of an Emergency button led to several transmissions being cut off early in the incident. At this time, Denver Health has not yet updated their radios with our new radio line-up so, on group responses, Denver Health has been patching their channel to our TAC channel. This patch causes a slight difficulty when an emergency alarm is activated; Dispatch has to remove the Denver Health patch on our TAC channel, clear the alarm, and reinstate the patch.

Evaluation and Summary (cont'd)

Recommendations:

- Our Lineshop and the EEB (Electronic Engineering Bureau) are working to update Denver Health's radios with our channel lineup. This will alleviate the need for the patch on Group responses and will allow our DFD Dispatchers to quickly clear Emergency Button activations after Dispatch and the IC acknowledge and react to whatever situation caused the activation.

Safety considerations:

- Hoarding conditions inside, holes in the floor, unusual floorplan, wires down, and structural members of the roof being burnt out underneath a still intact and normal looking tile roof. All safety considerations were aired on the tactical channel.

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Summary:

- Heavy fire, with numerous safety issues, encountered in a single story, single family residence. Fire was quickly extinguished and residence searched. Due to structure damage, creative overhaul was completed and 2 consecutive fire watches were used to insure that there was not a rekindle.

