

After Action Review: 2625 Federal Blvd.



Date: 3/27/16 Time: 2114 Incident Number: 16-0032130

Address: 2625 Federal Blvd.

Summary

- Group response for a building fire at 2625 Federal Blvd. Heavy smoke conditions upon arrival with reports of people jumping from 3rd floor windows. The building is a 3 story residential apartment building with approximately 10-12 units per floor. With heavy fire on the 3rd floor hallway and people jumping from these windows, first arriving companies were tasked with immediate fire attack and victim rescues. With people jumping from windows due to heavy smoke and fire conditions, the IC requested additional DHH ambulances to treat the injured. There were multiple victim rescues via ground ladders from the Bravo and Charlie sides of the building by firefighters. The IC indicated to me later in the incident that the crews from Fire Station #12 had performed a table top fire exercise of this very building earlier in the day. This exercise proved beneficial as all crews operating did an excellent job performing fire control and rescue operations.

After Action Review: 2625 Federal Blvd.

Risk vs Benefit:

Large apartment complex with substantial victim potential. All hands working to extinguish the fire and perform victim rescues.

|

After Action Review: 2625 Federal Blvd.

Units Initially Dispatched

E12, E06, E01, T12, TR-1, T4 (RIT), HM-1, R-01, D06, D02, OPS-2

First Arriving Unit

E12, T12, D06

Additional Units Requested

2nd Alarm assignment requested by IC

E07, E09, E08, T23, T08, D07

Initial Assignments

IC: D06 **RIT:** T4 **Safety Officer:** OPS-2

Charlie Division: Chief 2

Initial Strategy

Offensive

Initial Supply Line

Initial reports of building location were vague and Engine 12 relied on tank water until an initial supply line could be established by 2nd and 3rd due engine companies.

Attack of Line (s)

One 300' 1-3/4" attack line

Initial Supply Engine

E12

Humat

No

Back-up Line

E01

Was the building laddered

After Action Review: 2625 Federal Blvd.

Ground ladders with multiple means of egress

Building Size, Type Number of Stories and Occupancy

- Approximately 75'x35', Brick Residential, 3 Story

Involvement Upon Arrival and Location of Fire

- Third floor hallway fully involved upon arrival

Communications

- TAC-6 and face to face

Special Challenges

- Initial water supply had to be completed by 2nd due engine due to vague information regarding fire building.
- Numerous people jumping from windows on the bravo side, third floor.
- Numerous victim rescues were made on third floor via ground ladders.
- Fence on the bravo side needed to be completely removed to facilitate victim removal by EMS personnel. T-4 (RIT) was used to cut this fence and make a path.

Hazards and Safety Issues

- With multiple victims and rescue and EMS personnel on the bravo side conducting lifesaving efforts there were windows on the third floor that were being broken in order to complete the ventilation process. Falling glass became a hazard to those below.

Evaluation and Summary

1. **Tactical Priorities**
2. **Positive Outcomes**
3. **Additional Considerations**

After Action Review: 2625 Federal Blvd.

4. **Recommendations**
5. **Safety Considerations**

Tactical Priorities

- Offensive fire attack with a coordinated effort to treat the wounded and perform victim rescues of those still trapped on the third floor.

Positive Outcomes

- Reports of this fire came from a knock on the door at Station #12. It was not initially clear what building was actually on fire. The officer and Senior FF from E12 were able to stretch a 300' 1-3/4" unassisted to the seat of the fire on the third floor despite numerous people exiting the building and doors not staying open due to the heavy residential traffic. These two members were able to knock the entire fire while searching for extension in adjacent apartments.
- T12 was initially tasked with laddering the bravo side of the building and performing victim rescues / VES. Approximately 4-5 persons were taken down ladders to safety by this crew.
- Quick response put many hands on the second and third floors performing primary and secondary searches.
- Strong command presence by IC with a continual plan as conditions rapidly changed.
- Large presence by Denver Health Paramedics with a triage area set up in the 7-11 parking lot next door.
- Excellent coordination with DHH EMS and Denver Police.
- Adaptability of crews to perform functions outside of their normal scope – i.e. Engine 1 members performed a ground ladder victim rescue on the Charlie side.

Additional Considerations

- Windows on the third floor bravo side should have been opened versus broken due to the potential of falling glass hazards.
- 2nd alarm assignment might have been called sooner due to EMS needs on the bravo side of the building. 2nd alarm compliment could have been used to assist DHH Paramedics with patient care.
- Tracking fire companies with the full knowledge of the location and assignment of all members is paramount and is a process that needs to start at the outset of an incident.

Recommendations

After Action Review: 2625 Federal Blvd.

- IC should consider a 2nd size-up due to close proximity of fire building to Station #12.
- IC should consider reducing span of control by giving entire floor areas to a Division Supervisor.
- Members operating inside the fire building should be made aware of members operating on the ground and avoid breaking glass to ventilate.
- If an engine company cannot establish an initial water supply, this information should be immediately communicated to the IC and aired over the radio so the 2nd and 3rd due responding engines can formulate a plan for completing the water supply. This first due engine should, without hesitation, begin fire attack with the knowledge that the water supply issue will be resolved.
- RIT team members should not separate themselves to perform functions solo and should remain at the ready for a firefighter rescue.
- Consider whether truck companies need to have a larger compliment of longer ladders. In this particular instance two 35' foot ladders would have been a better option than one 35' and one 28' which nearly came up short for the task at hand.
- Incident Commanders should utilize command and control software to maintain accountability of crews on scene.
- Due to high heat conditions on the third floor a vertical ventilation opening should be a consideration in fires of this nature where the bulk of the fire is located in a hallway with very little ventilation openings.
- Ensure NIMS terminology is used when airing communications over radio, (e.g., Bravo (correct) side of the building versus baker (incorrect) side of the building.)
- Ensure that extreme caution is used when breaking glass, always giving consideration to areas outside and below where broken glass is likely to fall.

Safety Considerations

- Extreme caution should be utilized when horizontal ventilation is occurring on upper floor dues to hazards of falling debris and the creation of additional flow paths.

Summary

Denver Firefighters were faced with immediate high-risk life safety issues coupled with heavy fire conditions in their response to the apartment building at 2625 Federal. Quick thinking by the IC to place the first truck crew in ladder/rescue mode and a strong initial attack line placement kept this fire contained to the hallway and resulted in numerous occupants being saved from further harm. A strong initial response placed crews on the fire floor in a timely manner with searches and evacuations being performed quickly and efficiently.