

After Action Review: 4363 S Quebec St



Date: 5/12/16 **Time:** 08:12:48 **Incident Number:** 16-0048784

Address: 4363 S Quebec St, Denver, CO 80237

Summary

- DFD responded to 4363 S Quebec St, Building #4, and found a 3 story apartment complex with heavy fire showing from 2 apartments on the top floor. The first units to arrive found a chaotic scene, in addition to the visible heavy fire there were reports of shots fired in the area. These “shots” were later determined to be exploding butane cans from the fire apartment. Also, these exploding butane cans contributed to the amount of fire and made extinguishment more difficult. 3 Engine companies quickly pulled lines and extinguished all visible fire while 2 Truck companies searched and evacuated all 3 floors of the building. A small amount of fire extended into the attic and was searched out and extinguished from underneath as well as from the roof. A high volume of work was accomplished quickly by all companies to quickly control this incident. One of the 2 occupants that had initially fled the scene returned and was treated and transported by DHMC for burns and smoke inhalation.

Risk vs Benefit:

Multi family residence, heavy fire from 2 apartments with numerous other apartments’ threatened, unknown if occupants inside. Offensive strategy chosen

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Units Initially Dispatched:

E22, E13, E24, TR22, T16, T38 RIT, R01, D03, D04, OPS2

First Arriving Unit(s):

E22, TR22

Additional Units Requested:

HM01, AL08, E08

Initial Assignments:

IC: Chief 3 **RIT:** Truck 38 **Safety Officer:** Ops 2

Chief 4: 360, Charlie side observation, roof

Engine 22: 1 ¾" line Alpha side **Tower 22:** Forcible entry, Search, Evac

Engine 13: 1 ¾" line Alpha side **Truck 16:** Search, Evac, **R01:** Expose attic fire

Engine 24: 1 ¾" line Charlie side

HM01: Investigate for butane hash oil hazards

Initial Strategy:

Offensive

Initial Supply Line:

3" # of Lines 1 **Supply Engine:** E13 **Humat:** Yes

Attack Line(s):

Three 1 ¾"

Back-up Line:

N/A

Was the building laddered:

Yes **2 Means of egress:** Yes

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

- 24 unit, 3 story frame apartment building

Involvement Upon Arrival and Initial Location of Fire:

- Heavy fire Interior/Exterior Alpha side, 3rd floor, 2 apartments with heavy fire showing

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Communications:

- TAC 3 and Face to Face. Radio channel functioned well with one exception; T38 Alpha's lapel mic was exposed to a small amount of water and keyed open. Radio had to be shut down.

Special Challenges, Hazards, and Safety Issues:

- Narrow access to apartment building in middle of complex
- Reports of shots fired (later determined to be butane cans)
- Fire fueled by a large amount of butane cans. Numerous small explosions from these cans occurred during extinguishment

Command Structure:

IC:

- Chief 3

Safety Officer:

- Ops 2

RIT:

- Truck 38

Other assignments:

- All companies working as single resources. Span of control for IC 1:7. Command structure worked well for this incident but was on the verge of needing Groups/Divisions. If fire had not been controlled quickly a logical progression would have been to utilize groups and divisions as needed.

Evaluation and Summary

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

Tactical Priorities:

- Search for possible occupants, confine fire to 2 apartments, extinguish fire, search and evacuate entire building.

Positive Outcomes:

- First-in companies were very descriptive of route to take through complex upon arrival as well as descriptive of which hydrant was being used. This was very helpful for later arriving companies, especially those without complex maps.
- 2 separate water supplies were quickly established and 3 attack lines pulled.

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- Line selections of 1 3/4" proved ideal for maneuvering quickly to the fire location and within the apartments.
- Truck companies evacuated the entire building quickly, entire building evacuation was a good tactic in case of escalation of the fire.
- Initial transmissions of fire being fed by natural gas were later determined to be butane feeding the fire. After realization that this was a butane hash oil fire, all companies were notified via radio.

Additional Considerations:

- Water compromised the lapel mic of T38A resulting in a keyed mic, T38A had to shut down his radio to clear the channel
- One firefighter was treated, transported, and released from Denver Health due to dehydration.
- Initial response did not include Hamer 1 due to 911 call being coded as a Single Family Residence Fire, not Multi Family Residence Fire. Hamer 1 was later added when the omission was noticed.
- Initial response mitigated this incident but incident was of the size and complexity that it was on the verge of needing more resources.

Evaluation and Summary (cont'd)

Recommendations:

- Our Lineshop is investigating higher quality, water proof lapel mic's and has found a lapel mic that may work well. Until R&D'd, approved, and purchased, try to shield our current lapel mic's from exposure to water as much as possible.
- Verify that the response matches the incident/structure. This applies to Dispatchers as well as responding companies. At times, incoming calls may be coded by a non DFD call taker or the information may change as the call progresses and updating the nature code may be overlooked.
- As the Incident Commander, if all initial companies are quickly assigned and there are no units staged, request additional resources early in the incident. Also, consider the response time to where the incident is located in the city if additional resources are required.

Safety considerations:

- Exploding cans of butane fueled this fire and also added to the chance of injury to firefighters. In addition, the processes used in illegal activities can yield unknown and unexpected hazards. Due to proper wear of PPE and SCBA, all firefighters on scene minimized chances of exposure to contaminants.
- Stay hydrated at all times while at work. As happened at this incident, if you are not feeling well notify your supervisor immediately and seek care.

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Summary:

- Heavy fire was encountered in 2 apartments on the 3rd floor of a 24 unit building. All responding companies completed a high volume of work quickly to bring this fire under control. This fire was fueled by the materials being used in hash oil extraction and this provided special challenges during extinguishment.

Link to fire video: <http://cbsloc.al/1Yoclun>

