

After Action Review: 11150 E. Dartmouth



Date: 6/26/2016 Time: 17:18 Incident Number: 16-0066712

Address: 11150 E. Dartmouth Ave

The fire occupancy is commercial crematorium with two incinerators which were both in operation at full capacity at the time of the fire. The incinerators are located in the basement (walk-out on the delta side) with exhaust vents that travel vertically through the structure and out the roof. The vent is an insulated double steel vent stack encased by ordinary dimensional wood and combustible siding. The vent stack is stabilized by three guy wires of which only two were operational. Later it was discovered that a breach in the vent stack was allowing heated gases directly into the attic space. The building is a combination of meeting rooms, chapel, offices, and an addition that created several attic spaces not easily accessible to responders. There were 5 occupants at the time the fire started and all evacuated the structure prior to the arrival of fire companies. Chief 3 reported smoke from two blocks away prior to arrival. The first companies focused on water supply of which there were two and then focused on locating the fire. Members informed command of a previous similar fire at this location which facilitated a roof division early in the incident. Attack lines were brought in from the Charlie side (garden level-walkout basement) as this offered direct access to the incinerators and stairs leading to the main level.

After Action Review: 11150 E. Dartmouth

Members on the roof identified several attic locations where the fire had taken hold. Interior companies pulled ceiling to locate the main body of the fire and extinguished it.

Risk vs Benefit:

One story, with a walk out basement, commercial structure, smoke showing from the area around the chimney. Unknown occupants upon arrival.

Units Initially Dispatched:

D03, D04, D07, E22, E19, E13, E18, T19, TR22, T16, R01, HM1, Ops 2

First Arriving Unit(s):

E22

Additional Units Requested:

E5, E24, E36, TR15, Air/light, Arson 5

Initial Assignments:

IC: Chief 4 **RIT:** R01 **Safety Officer:** Ops 2

Chief 7: Information gathering

Engine 22: 1 ¾" line Charlie side **Engine 19:** Charlie side backup line

Engine 13: 1 ¾" line roof

Truck 16: Roof

Initial Strategy:

Offensive

Initial Supply Line:

Two 3" lines **Supply Engine:** E19, supplied E22 **Humat:** yes

Attack Line(s):

1 ¾" interior and 1 ¾" line on the roof.

Back-up Line:

1 ¾" on the interior

Was the building laddered:

Yes

2 Means of egress: Yes

After Action Review: 11150 E. Dartmouth

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

13, 185 sq. ft., wood frame, one story with a walk out basement, commercial

Involvement Upon Arrival and Initial Location of Fire:

Heavy smoke showing from the chimney area of the roof

Communications:

TAC 3 Alpha and Face to Face.

Special Challenges, Hazards, and Safety Issues:

Tile roof

Intricate roof design creating void spaces that were difficult to evaluate for fire extension.

Fire was in the attic and void spaces around the chimney

Weather conditions-temperatures above 80 degrees

Command Structure:

IC: Chief 3

Safety Officer: Ops 2

RIT: Rescue 1, later Engine 18

Other assignments: Companies worked as single resources with the exception of the roof division.

Evaluation and Summary

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

Tactical Priorities:

- Search for possible occupants
- Containment
- Extinguishment

After Action Review: 11150 E. Dartmouth

Positive Outcomes:

- The incident commander did a good job of identifying and communicating hydrant locations for incoming units. Engines were spotted to optimize hydrants and trucks were spotted for optimal roof operations.
- Initial strategy was sound including getting crews both above and below to isolate the fire quickly.
- Primary search was completed quickly and all occupants were identified and accounted for early.

Additional Considerations:

- 14 units responded to this incident, including the IC and Ops 2, managed as single resources. The use of single resources contributed to high radio traffic.
- ALS stating they were staged but were not located on scene, this contributed to the inability to set up a rehab area. ALS was eventually contacted and directed to a shaded area for rehab but firefighting efforts had progressed to a point where this rehab was not effective.
- Communication between the IC and the Safety Officer. Stress on the companies working was magnified by the above 80 degree temperatures and extensive roof operations. Some companies in rehab were stating their crews were exhausted when reports were coming in that there was still more fire in the void spaces below the roof. This report was later updated and the additional companies were not needed.
- RIT team was reassigned a couple times within the incident.

Recommendations:

- The NIM's structure for managing incidents should be the objective on all incidents. While it is appropriate to manage incidents where the span of control is easily managed, tasks and objectives should be clearly stated.
- Rehab areas should be identified and set up; this is especially important during extreme weather conditions. A central rehab area allows for easy assessment of crew status from ALS and DFD staff members.
- Once established, RIT teams should stay in their assignment.

Safety considerations:

- Roof operations above and below a tiled roof with fire reported in the void space.

Summary:

Smoke was showing from the roof/smoke stack area upon arrival. The initial report was that the fire did not appear to be in the structure. First arriving units did a good job of evaluating the situation and reporting back that this was a structure fire. Rigs were guided in and deployed

After Action Review: 11150 E. Dartmouth

efficiently leading to rapid fire attack and extinguishment. The use of groups and divisions is a necessary tool incident commanders need to be familiar and comfortable with using to help manage resources, maintain span of control and accountability. As a department, we need to embrace the concept of a formal rehab area so companies can be accounted for and easily assessed. Finally, the Safety Officer should ease the stress on the IC not add to it and improving the way we communicate is something we will continue to work on.



After Action Review: 11150 E. Dartmouth

