

## After Action Review: 4920 N. Washington St.



**Date: 7/10/2016    Time: 16:46    Incident Number: 16-0072397**

**Address: 4920 N. Washington St.**

Engine 9 was dispatched to a weed fire and upgraded the response to a group based on the volume of smoke showing prior to arrival. Upon arrival, companies found a large salvage yard on fire. Hydrant locations were quickly identified and units guided in to set up for defensive operations. As this is close to Adams County, Adams County dispatch asked Denver Fire dispatch if they could assist. Chief 2 arrived and took command. Another fire was being dispatched in the downtown area at this time, Chief 2 recognized the challenges presented for water supply and the need for additional resources so he requested additional resources from Adams County. A 7,000 volt electric fence surrounds the complex creating additional safety concerns. The command post was established on the south side of the complex and was separated from the fire by the salvage yard office and a livestock pen. Engine 9 deployed hand lines while master streams were being set up. Companies were able to set up aerials on the Charlie and Alpha sides and hand lines were utilized on the delta side and gained access from the alpha side. Companies were able to surround and extinguish the fire and onsite machinery was utilized to move the scrap and ensure extinguishment. One member was treated for dehydration

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and transported to Denver Health and later released. Two members were seen by ALS on scene for injuries sustained when a section of 5” inch hose burst of which one member was treated and released on scene and one was transported to Denver Health and later released to full duty.

## **Risk vs Benefit:**

Salvage yard with high piled scrap and an exposure directly on the south (alpha) side containing live stock.

## **Units Initially Dispatched:**

E09

## **First Arriving Unit(s):**

E09

## **Additional Units Requested:**

TR9, T04, HM1, D02, D06, T12, Ops 2, R01, E07, E17, E10, Air/Light, Adams County Fire E13 and Medic 13

## **Initial Assignments:**

**IC:** Chief 2                      **RIT:** T12                      **Safety Officer:** Ops 2

**Chief 6:** Charlie Side

**Engine 10:** Relayed to Engine 9                      **Truck 9:** Aerial operations

**Engine 7:** Supplied Truck 12                      **Truck 4:** Aerial operations

**Engine 9:** Supplied Tower 9                      **Truck 12:** Aerial operations

**Engine 17:** Supplied Truck 4

## **Initial Strategy:**

Defensive

## **Initial Supply Line:**

2- 3 inch lines                      **Supply:** Engine 9                      **Humat:** Yes

## **Attack Line(s):**

Engine 9 deployed 1 3/4” hand line while master streams were being set up.

2 1/2 Hand lines were deployed on the Delta side by Adams County Fire

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## **Back-up Line:**

N/A

## **Was the building laddered:**

N/A

2 Means of egress: N/A

## **Involvement Upon Arrival and Initial Location of Fire:**

Heavy fire and smoke in the middle of the high piled stock, about 40% involvement.

## **Communications:**

Tac 2 and Red N/E

## **Special Challenges, Hazards, and Safety Issues:**

Weather conditions-temperatures above 90 degrees

7,000 volt electric fence.

Fire was in the scrap pile.

The entrance to the yard on the Charlie side was narrow making apparatus placement difficult as lines were laid.

The location of the fire in relationship to the address side of the building and location of the command post being on the south side of the lot physically separated from the area on fire by structures made identifying the Alpha, Bravo, Charlie and Delta sides confusing.

## **Command Structure:**

**IC:** Chief 2

**Safety Officer:** Ops 2

**RIT:** T12

**Other assignments:** Companies worked as single resources until later in the fire when a Charlie Division was made consisting of Chief 6, Engine 10, Engine 9, Truck 4, Truck 9 and Hamer1 .

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## **Evaluation and Summary**

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

### **Tactical Priorities:**

- Contain and extinguish the fire
- Protect livestock
- Protect exposures

### **Positive Outcomes:**

- The initial strategy and tactics were sound, good placement of rigs.
- Extra companies were added early in the incident.
- Onsite resources were used to move debris.
- Onsite staff were used to secure the electric fence.

### **Additional Considerations:**

- The use of NIM's. 13 DFD, including the IC and OPS 2, and 2 Adams County Fire units responded to this incident making the span of control for the IC 11.
- 35 foot and 14 foot sections of 5" hose were used to supply aerials, these sections of hose are not tested at the pressures required to pump into aerials or master streams and should not be used as such.
- Relay pumping at incidents; controlling pressure fluctuations.

### **Recommendations:**

- The NIM's structure for managing incidents should be the objective on all incidents. The use of NIM's would have aided the IC reduce radio traffic, reduce span of control, increase accountability and manage crews especially those not within eyesight.
- Members should recognize the possibility of over exertion on days where the temperatures exceed 80 degrees. Daily training and exercise should be adjusted keeping in mind we could be called to work in these conditions at any time.
- All apparatus should be sure to have coolers with bottled water on the rigs at all times with sufficient supplies to accommodate members until the air/light arrived. Early consideration should be given to meet the members rehab needs especially when the Air/Light might not be immediately available.

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- When pumping through 5 inch hose, use only hose that has been tested for those pressures. Currently, this is the 100 foot sections dated 2014 and newer which is tested at 300 psi and 100 foot sections dated prior to 2014 tested at 200 psi. 35 foot sections are tested at hydrant pressure.
- One company stated that while working on a hydrant that was supplying another engine, both engines experienced pressure fluctuation issues. They identified the problem as having both the engine on the hydrant and the engine supplying the tower using the PSI pressure governor setting. The engine on the hydrant should be set on RPM. On apparatus with the electronic pressure relief system, if both the engine on the plug and the engine supplying the tower are set at PSI the engines will sense fluctuations and fight each other to maintain the proper pressure.

### **Safety considerations:**

- High voltage security fence.
- Weather conditions-extreme heat.
- Using hose for purposes in which it was not tested for.

### **Summary:**

Responding apparatus were positioned to surround and contain this fire from the beginning. Communications with Adams County Fire companies took place on Red Northeast. The Red Northeast radio channel was not clear in the beginning and Ops 2 had to be attached to Adams County Fire to ensure commands from the IC were relayed accurately. Adams County Fire was assigned to work on the Delta side with Rescue 1 where they deployed 2 ½ inch hand lines. Communications on Red Northeast improved during the incident and face to face communications was utilized once the mutual aid companies were working with Denver companies. The high voltage fence was secured and verified by several DFD members. The power for this fence was locked and secured ensuring no one could accidentally turn on the power. Drinking water supplies became an issue as suppression efforts were under way. Consideration was given to utilizing a convenience store nearby but extra water was supplied by the business. Air/light also responded with a fresh supply of water and Gator Aid.

The command post was declared and the Alpha side identified in an area which provided limited views of the incident forcing the IC to migrate from the Alpha to the Charlie side at times. As companies arrived, there was some confusion as dispatch relayed updates about a possible structure containing livestock being threatened. While this structure appeared to be attached to the salvage yard property it had a different address adding to the confusion.

This fire was complicated by the presence of the high voltage fence, long lays, limited access, water supply issues, manmade barriers such as fences and structures, communication issues and members being injured during operations. Overall, companies worked to overcome these obstacles, save property and mitigate this incident in a timely manner.

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