

After Action Review: 2641 So. Cherokee Street



Date: 11/13/2018 Time: 0143 Incident Number: 18-123280

Address: 2641 So. Cherokee Street

Overview

On November 13, 2018, at 0143 hrs., the Denver Fire Department responded to a reported structure fire to the address 2641 So. Cherokee Street. Engine 37 was first to arrive on the scene and gave an initial report of smoke emanating from the Delta-side of a one-story single-family dwelling. Truck 16 arrived on the scene shortly after the initial arrival report from Engine 37 and assumed command, with the declaration of an offensive attack from the Alpha-side of the house. D03, Engine 24, and Truck 38 marked on-scene, and D03 took command of the incident. D03, upon completion of a 360 of the house, indicated that the fire was in the basement, located on the Charlie/ Delta corner of the house, with fire extending to the main floor of the dwelling. Engine 37, who initially advanced their attack line through the Alpha-side of the home, reported that there were several holes in the first floor and that they were holding their position, to extinguish the visible fire in front of them. At this point, Truck 16 also reported multiple burnout points in the first floor from the Charlie-side and relayed this information, face-to-face, to OPS-2. Concurrent in this chain of events, Truck 38 called command, notifying that the fire is in the basement and that Engine 24 was getting water on the fire from their attack point from the

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Charlie-side of the building, with the majority of the fire under control. OPS-2 communicated safety concern regarding the first floor to D03 and the first floor was declared unsafe, and the backout tone was initiated.

D03 immediately conducted a PAR and once all units were accounted for, a new exterior attack plan was declared. At this point, Engine 24 and Truck 16 were working on the Delta-side of the building in coordination with Rescue 1 (working on the roof) to extinguish the remaining fire that had extended to the attic. Truck 38 cut a large hole in the Gable of the Bravo-side and was able to extinguish the visible fire. Shortly after 1426 hrs., this fire was out, and the loss was stopped.

This fire was a shining example of how communication and coordinating the attack is essential to the safety of personnel working on the scene of a structure fire. Once Engine 37 reported the initial issues with the first floor, it provided an automatic action level for D03 to adjust his strategy and deploy resources to forward the attack. All facets of this attack were sound and exuded the professionalism that the Denver Fire Department performs daily.

Risk vs Benefit: One-story, light weight wood construction, single family home with multiple additions and modifications to the original structure.

Units Initially Dispatched: E37, E16, E24, T16, T38, Tr23, R01, D03, D07, OPS-2, AL

First Arriving Unit(s): E37, T16 and D03

Additional Units Requested: None

Initial Assignments:

IC: D03 **RIT:** Tr23 **Safety Officer:** OPS-2

E37: Fire attack on the first floor of the building **E24:** Charlie Side with a hose line

E16: Back-up line for E37 on the main floor of the building

D07: Charlie Division

R01: Roof Division

T16: Forcible Entry and Primary Search main floor

T38: Primary Search of the basement

Initial Strategy: Offensive interior attack

Initial Supply Line: One, 3-inch supply line with the Humat valve.

Attack Line(s): 1 ¾"

Back-up Line: 1 ¾"

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Was the building laddered: Yes (3-sides, Alpha, Bravo and Delta) **2 Means of egress:** Yes

Building Size, Type, Number of Stories, and Occupancy: 1000 square foot, one-story, single family dwelling. Home was under renovation and unoccupied.

Involvement Upon Arrival and Initial Location of Fire: Smoke showing from the Delta-side of the building and pushing from the eaves, with visible fire.

Communications: TAC 3

Special Challenges, Hazards, and Safety Issues:

Snow and ice on both concrete and grass surfaces

Light weight wood construction

Burned out first floor

Command Structure:

IC: D03

Safety Officer: OPS-2

RIT: Tr23

Other assignments:

- Fire attack
- Search
- Back-up line
- Charlie-side

Evaluation and Summary

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

Tactical Priorities: Offensive interior attack, primary and secondary search of building, extinguishment of fire.

Positive Outcomes:

- Engine 37, Truck 16, and D03 on scene 3-4 minutes from initial dispatch
- Initial and secondary water supply quickly established
- Aggressive interior attack by E37, T16, and E24
- Aggressive Primary Search of both first floor and basement
- Rapid hazard identification averted significant injury to personnel inside house

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Additional Considerations:

- Identification of the burned-out floor by E37 was communicated quickly. However, once the smoke lifted, this hazard proved much grander than what was initially communicated. (see pics)
- Communications (face-to-face) were effective and mostly contributed to the proximity and small footprint of the fire ground. Radio communication issues that were identified came from interior crews talking too fast. The main point of the radio transmission was heard, but a slower, methodical, and succinct statement is preferred.
- The incident commander noted that in the future he would establish the command post as far away from “running” apparatus as possible but maintaining eyes on the structure. The background noise was an irritant that could have been avoided.
- Following an aggressive overhaul of the Delta-side, it was determined that the fire had completely burned out the interior framing where most of the fire was. This validated the aggressive opening-up of the exterior walls and exterior attack initiated by D03.

Recommendations:

- Table top exercises that have active radio updates and communications as benchmark of the learning paradigm.
- The new addition of the learning labs will allow training to be developed and implemented remotely, utilizing a dedicated radio channel and can facilitate table-top training without having everyone at the same location.

Safety considerations:

- Always take the time to maintain an acute awareness of the weather and the slip, trip and fall hazards that snow and ice present. Snow and ice were on grass, roof, concrete, and asphalt and posed a significant obstacle to the fluidity of the fire ground.
- Renovated houses pose a risk, in that what you see, is not what you get from looking at one side of the structure. D03 did a great job in quickly adjusting his strategy and tactical considerations to bring this fire under control safely.

Summary:

Overall, the fire attack was successful in the fact that the fire was rapidly extinguished and there were no injuries to civilians or firefighters. The initial decision to go offensive was indicated with the fire conditions present on arrival and D03 did a great job in communicating his strategy and tactics to units on the scene. Great Job!

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