

After Action Review: 10025 E Girard Ave



Date: 3/1/17 **Time:** 15:47 **Incident Number:** 17-0021760

Address: 10025 E. Girard Ave.

Overview: Companies responded to multiple calls of an apartment on fire; on arrival Engine and Tower 22 found heavy fire involving 2 buildings in a 2-story townhome complex. The buildings involved were deep inside the complex with no close vehicle access. A Second Alarm response was quickly asked for and dispatched. All Engine Companies pulled attack lines; all Truck Companies and Rescue 1 began search and evac operations, and eventually 3 Truck Companies and Rescue 1 worked topside to complete vertical ventilation for the Engine Companies on the interior. After completing an amazing amount of work in a relatively short period of time, the fire was placed under control with the fire heavily damaging 2 buildings and slightly extending into an additional 2 breezeways. No civilians were injured, 2 firefighters were transported for minor injuries (1 injury was discovered in Rehab), 1 firefighter reported an injury several days later, and multiple civilians were displaced but cared for by Red Cross.

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Risk vs Benefit: 2-story townhome complex, lightweight construction, late 70's era, with heavy fire showing from 2 townhome units (both floors on each unit) and signs indicating quick rate of spread of fire to other units and other buildings combined with the high possibility of civilians inside due to the time of day led to an offensive interior attack.

Units Initially Dispatched: E13, E22, E24, T19, TR22, E19 RIT, R01, HM01, D03, D07, OPS2

First Arriving Unit(s): E22, TR22

Additional Units Requested:

E05 to cover for E13, E13 unable to respond due to bay door accident when leaving firehouse.

2nd Alarm: E18, E14, E16, T16, TR23, D04, Air/Light, PIO, Arson, OPS1, OPS4

Additional 2 Engines above 2nd Alarm: E12, E28

Initial Assignments:

IC: Initially TR22 then D03 **RIT:** E19 Delta Side, HM01 Alpha Side

Safety Officer: OPS2 (after initially being Charlie Division Supervisor)

E22: 1 ¾" Attack Line Delta Side **E24:** 2 ½" Attack Line Alpha Side

E19: 1 ¾" Attack Line Exterior of Delta Side (still maintained RIT status)

E05: Assumed Delta Side RIT duties

E16: Provided 1 ¾" handline for T16 on roof, extended 1 ¾" to far east side of Delta Side Exposure, completed Search and Evac of that same exposure

TR22, R01, T19: Search and Evac of 3 buildings involved in fire or severely threatened. R01 also utilized a 1 ¾" attack line in the Bravo Exposure building when fire was discovered during the search.

TR22, R01, TR23, and T16: After buildings were searched and evacuated, these Companies then completed vertical ventilation

D04 and OPS1: Assisted IC

OPS4: Initially operated as Water Supply Group Supervisor (assessed water supply, set up relay pumping operation with E19, E18, and E16) then operated as Rehab Group Supervisor

E18 and E14: Relieved first-in Engine Companies on attack lines

Initial Strategy: Offensive interior attack after darkening heavy exterior fire. Search and Evac of all buildings involved. Vertical ventilation coordinated with interior attack.

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Initial Supply Line:

Number and Size of Lines: Two 3” **Supply Engine:** Engine 22 **Humat:** Yes

Attack Line(s): Five 1 ¾”, One 2 ½”

Back-up Line: None, all were attack lines

Was the building laddered: Yes **2 Means of egress:** Yes

Building Size, Type, Number of Stories, and Occupancy: Each building contained eight 2-story townhome units, 2 buildings involved, buildings connected by breezeways.

Involvement Upon Arrival and Initial Location of Fire: Heavy fire involvement, both stories, 2 buildings. AD corner of main fire building, structure over breezeway between main fire building and Delta Side Exposure, and heavy fire on North side of Delta Exposure building.

Communications: TAC3 and Command 3

Special Challenges, Hazards, and Safety Issues: Fast moving fire moving through breezeway structures to multiple buildings, fire moving quickly through attic spaces, stairs burnt through in one occupancy, no access for aerials for roof operations, private hydrants in complex did not provide enough water, city hydrants were further distance away and required relay pumping, Engine Companies could not place apparatus near fire resulting in long handline stretches.

Command Structure:

IC: Chief 3

Safety Officer: OPS2

RIT: E19 Delta Side (then E05), HM01 Alpha Side

Other assignments:

- Delta Division (first referred to as Charlie Division), Vent Group, Companies not in Delta Division or Vent Group operated as Single Resources. Span of Control for IC varied greatly throughout incident but stayed manageable.

Evaluation and Summary

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

Tactical Priorities: Offensive interior attack. Search and Evacuation of all buildings involved, extinguishment of fire and confinement to buildings of origin.

Positive Outcomes: Tremendous amount of work done quickly. 2nd Alarm response called for by Tower 22 early in incident. Involved buildings and exposure buildings searched and evacuated

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quickly. Engine Companies on the interior and Truck/Rescue Companies on the roof working in unison to extinguish/vent the buildings was very successful. Water supply issues were addressed by having Ops 4 as Water Supply Group Supervisor coordinate with Engine Engineers in establishing an additional water supply from a city hydrant using relay pumping of 3 Engines. A Rehab Group was established and all personnel were required to spend time in Rehab, Rehab Group identified one individual in need of medical attention that required transport, later to be released back to duty after received fluids at the hospital.

Additional Considerations and Recommendations:

Early designation of a defined Level 2 Staging Area would have kept the roads around this incident clearer and allowed for tactical positioning of rigs as needed. Early designation of a Command Channel would have kept the tactical channel clearer for pertinent radio transmissions. Tower 22 (initial IC) was extremely busy on scene, designation of staging and designation of a Command Channel by the District Chief enroute would have been advantageous. For future incidents, especially those with narrow, congested roads, a Level 2 Staging Area in a clear area away from the fire would keep the incident organized and allow the IC to place apparatus as needed and would make it easier to address needs (such as water supply) quicker. Early designation of a Command Channel would keep the tactical channel free for needed transmissions by eliminating Dispatch traffic, updates, resource requests, etc.

Safety considerations: No significant safety issues beyond what would be expected at a well involved fire in a wood frame structure. One significant issue that was revealed in Rehab as well as occurring at other incidents is the need to stay well hydrated throughout the work shift. An incident such as this that requires extreme effort can occur at any time on any shift, hydration is extremely important.

Summary: Multiple calls were received at Dispatch indicating a fire in an apartment/townhome complex. On arrival, Engine 22 and Tower 22 encountered a well involved structure fire. Due to the size and extent of the fire, a 2nd alarm was called for by Tower 22. Quick work by all Companies that responded resulted in the fire being extinguished and confined to the buildings of origin. 3 minor injuries were sustained by firefighters but no injuries occurred to civilians. Many occupants were displaced but all were assisted by the Red Cross.