

## **After Action Review: 20750 East 40<sup>th</sup> Avenue**



**Date: 11/19/2016      Time: 1358      Incident Number: 16-0123801**

**Address: 20750 East 40<sup>th</sup> Avenue**

### **Summary**

On November 19, 2016, at 1358 hrs, Denver Fire responded to the address 20750 East 40<sup>th</sup> Avenue for a reported structure fire. Engine 29 arrived on scene at 1402 hrs, securing a water supply and gave the report of smoke showing from the Alpha side of the building and that they were going on an offensive attack, in the “Fast Attack” mode. Truck 2 arrived on scene shortly after Engine 29, assumed command and sent the balance of Truck 2’s crew to conduct a primary search of the building and secure utilities. Engine 29 communicated that they were having trouble finding the fire due to heavy smoke conditions and asked for Command to start Positive Pressure Ventilation (PPV). Command denied the request because there were too many unknowns to initiate this tactic and instructed the crew of Truck 2 to horizontally vent the building to help Engine 29 find the fire (Truck 2 was also carrying a TIC). 27’s a pair and Chief 5 arrived on scene and Chief 5 assumed command via a face-to-face. Engine 27 went to work on 29’s water supply and stretched a back-up line to the Alpha side of the building. Tower 27 relayed to Command that they were “going to the roof” and Command echoed that transmission. Ops-2 arrived on scene, assuming the role of Safety. Ops-2 was able to gain a vantage point from the Charlie side of the building and observed snow and ice on the tile roof and made the

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recommendation to Command not to send Tower 27 to the roof. Minutes later, Engine 29 found the seat of the fire and rapidly extinguished the fire, confining the fire to the room of origin. Chief 6 was assigned to Interior, but was not deployed due to the fire being extinguished and assumed a support role for Command. Truck 26 was assigned RIT and performed a RIT Recon. Engine 26 and Rescue 1 were staged.

**Risk vs Benefit:** Two-story, light weight wood construction, single family home, offensive strategy declared.

**Units Initially Dispatched:** E29, E27, E26, Tr27, T26, T2, R01, D05, D06 and Ops-2

**First Arriving Unit(s):** E29

**Additional Units Requested:** None

**Initial Assignments:**

**IC:** D05

**RIT:** T26

**Safety Officer:** Ops-2

**E29:** Fire Attack on the second floor

**T2:** Primary Search and Horizontal Ventilation and Utilities

**Tr27:** Initially self-deployed to the roof and then were reassigned to second floor to assist with pre-control overhaul

**E27:** Supplemented E29's Humat valve and back-up line to the Alpha side of building

**E26:** Secondary water supply

**R01:** Staging

**Initial Strategy:** Offensive interior attack

**Initial Supply Line:** 3-inch

**Attack Line(s):** 1 3/4"

**Back-up Line:** 1 3/4"

**Was the building laddered:** Yes, to the roof, not for egress      **2 Means of egress:** No

**Building Size, Type, Number of Stories, and Occupancy:** 2000 sq. ft., two-story, light weight wood construction, single family dwelling

**Involvement Upon Arrival and Initial Location of Fire:** Light smoke showing from Alpha side of building

**Communications:** Tac 5 tactical channel

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

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Snow and Ice on both concrete and grass surfaces

Light weight wood construction with tile roof

Apparatus placement of Engine 29 inhibited use of T2 aerial ladder and Tr 27 platform

Smoke conditions on second floor obscuring location of fire

## **Command Structure:**

**IC:** D05

**Safety Officer:** Ops-2

**RIT:** T26

## **Other Assignments:**

- Fire attack
- Search and Vent
- Back-up line

## **Evaluation and Summary**

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

**Tactical Priorities:** Offensive interior attack, search and evacuation of building, extinguishment of fire.

## **Positive Outcomes:**

- E29 on scene approximately 3 minutes from dispatch
- Initial water supply completed
- Fast attack mode decision made quickly
- Aggressive search
- Confined fire to room of origin
- Halting roof operations due to identified unsafe conditions of roof
- Post control critique done by Incident Commander

## **Additional Considerations:**

- Incident commanders need to be assertive, deliberate and concise on scene. Tactical decision and communications were not clearly relayed to companies operating on scene.
- It was later discovered that during the transition of command from T02 to D05, that the original IC from T02 asked Tr27 to go to the roof, but never articulated this over the

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radio. Tactics should be communicated over the air, so everyone is made aware of who is going where.

- Engine officers need to maintain awareness of the structure they are responding to and direct the positioning of the apparatus once on scene. E29 parked directly in front of the house and inhibited the use of both T02 and Tr27. Tr27 would have been a better option to vent the roof from the bucket instead of putting firefighters on that style of roof.
- Consideration needs be made by incident commanders to ladder all four sides of the building for a secondary means of egress. The ladder used in this fire was for roof access only.
- Engine 26 called command upon arrival and asked command “do you have a plug for me”? Hydrant selection, especially secondary water supply is at the discretion of that engine officer.

### **Recommendations:**

- Training on Denver specific Standard Operating Guidelines, specific to Positive Pressure Ventilation and when and how it is to be coordinated.
- Expanded training on using Thermal Imagers to help locate the seat of the fire employed at the district and company level.
- Training on roof operations and recognition and identification of contraindications and abort criteria for roof operations.
- Ladder all sides of the building and making sure there is a secondary egress.
- Preplanning and building construction characteristics and how they relate to recreation time in a structure and on a roof.
- Work on getting familiar with finding and identifying water supply/ hydrants outside of your first due response area.

### **Safety Considerations:**

- Tile roof on a light weight wood construction building with 3/8” sheeting underneath. If a roof
- Slip, Trip and Fall hazards from ice and snow on both concrete and grass surfaces
- Fire load of room of origin, specifically the large amount plastics and foam

### **Summary:**

Overall, the fire attack was successful in the fact the fire was extinguished and all occupants of the house were safe and accounted for. The initial decision to go offensive was the right call by the officer of E29 and the proper hose line was selected. There were a few flaws that occurred that were identified and redirected by the Incident Commander and the Safety Officer and the end result was positive. There were no injuries to civilians or firefighters.

Consideration and review of Denver Fire Standard Operating Guidelines is recommended to all Operations personnel. The reality is that structure fires are a low frequency event that puts firefighters at the greatest risk. Look at all incidents from the perspective of “Risk Based

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Response”. Understand the anatomy and physiology of the buildings we operate in and understand the tactics utilized and how they best fit in the “Risk Based Response” model.

