

POST-INCIDENT REVIEW

INCIDENT LOCATION **13500 Midway** _____
DATE **01/25/06** _____ SHIFT **A** _____
COMPLETED BY **J. Duffield** _____

TYPE OF OCCUPANCY AND TYPE OF INCIDENT

Building fire in a commercial mixed office and retail occupancy. Type flat roof, mansard parapet, concrete, stucco, steel construction, and I.

ARRIVAL CONDITIONS AND ACTION TAKEN

Dispatched to building fire with PD on scene confirming working fire. Upon turning onto Midway saw heavy smoke across Midway, asked for a second alarm. Upon arrival positioned E132 on A/D corner and told R. Henley to get ladder up and be ready to go defensive. PD was at my door stating they thought someone was inside because they could hear them banging on window/wall. I checked out with heavy smoke, E132 was investigating; this was due to PD info.

SPECIAL HAZARDS/CONDITIONS

Hot lap found heavy fire and smoke coming from large window near the C/D corner (2nd unit down) by the way the smoke was going out, not in, I concluded that the fire was compartmentalized. The fire was making quite a bit of noise, and I assumed that was what the PD had heard. 50-75 feet down was a door and an interior hallway. I made the decision to fight the fire from the outside due to the smoke conditions, indicating a compartmented fire, the large amount of fire, and the amount of time it would have taken to stretch a line through building back to fire unit. Blunt brought a charged 1 ¾ and I instructed him to apply water and not to enter the unit. By this time the entire window was gone. It looked as if there might be bar joist members sagging and we were near/partially under a mansard parapet so going interior from our location was not a good option. I called Henley and ask him to climb the ladder and find where the HVAC units were, do to the conditions and not knowing construction type at the time, I was concerned about them coming down near us. Henley reported that the units were in the center area of the roof away from our location.

EQUIPMENT USED

Extinguishment was conducted with 1 ¾ line and about 800 gallons of water. It took about three minutes to black it out. After fire was under control, charged smoke appeared to be coming from roof assembly. Building laddered with ground ladder and XL98 attempted to cut roof for inspection, at that time it was realized that the roof was steel decking with 2-inch light weight concrete, the smoke witnessed was coming from fire unit.

Foam Pro from E113 assisted in overhaul.

SPECIAL PROBLEMS THAT OCCURRED

My radio snagged and I had to partially take off SCBA to reposition. Engine 131 had lay across Midway for a supply line to Engine 132. Engine 132 almost ran out of water prior to permanent water being established.

THINGS THAT WORKED WELL

Directly attacking the fire from the exterior saved time and in my opinion kept it spreading past the closed office door that contained it from the rest of the building. This was in coordination with E131, M132, E102, and T131 that entered the building and searched for interior extension. Normally, we are taught to attack from unburned to burned, but in this case, direct moth-to-the-flame worked well. There was good communication and coordination with interior units and E132, they reported no extension or fire/heat being pushed. If they had, E132 would have shut down its line and an attack from the interior to the burned could have been initiated.

THINGS THAT DIDN'T

It wasn't perfect but overall it went pretty well. Operationally, to contain that much fire to a single room was a lot better than I would have hoped for when arriving on scene. The XL98 was brought up the ladder running. They initially suspected arson so the overhaul was delayed and time on scene seemed extended for the investigation.

OTHER COMMENTS

This fire demonstrates the weakness of having only one engine with 3 personnel in a district with the life safety and fire potential present. If I had 4 personnel I would have left one at the plug and gone in with a 2 ½, which I think is preferable on most commercial fires. If a rescue would have been required the fire would have extended into the rest of the building probably resulting in the loss of most if not all the structure. If this structure would have been the same construction as Towerwood, we would have been hard pressed to containing it not only to one unit but one building, with the exposure potential.

In conclusion the construction type, concrete/steel, no common attic ways, and one-hour sheet rock intact with a closed interior door made it possible to directly attack the seat of the fire and contain it to one room. While often preached against in some circles, moth-to-the fire should always be kept as an option, when the conditions allow.

POST-INCIDENT REVIEW

INCIDENT LOCATION **13500 Midway** _____
DATE **01/25/06** _____ SHIFT **A** _____
COMPLETED BY **J. Duffield** _____

TYPE OF OCCUPANCY AND TYPE OF INCIDENT

Building fire in a commercial mixed office and retail occupancy. Type flat roof, mansard parapet, concrete, stucco, steel construction, and I.

ARRIVAL CONDITIONS AND ACTION TAKEN

Dispatched to building fire with PD on scene confirming working fire. Upon turning onto Midway saw heavy smoke across Midway, asked for a second alarm. Upon arrival positioned E132 on A/D corner and told R. Henley to get ladder up and be ready to go defensive. PD was at my door stating they thought someone was inside because they could hear them banging on window/wall. I checked out with heavy smoke, E132 was investigating; this was due to PD info.

SPECIAL HAZARDS/CONDITIONS

Hot lap found heavy fire and smoke coming from large window near the C/D corner (2nd unit down) by the way the smoke was going out, not in, I concluded that the fire was compartmentalized. The fire was making quite a bit of noise, and I assumed that was what the PD had heard. 50-75 feet down was a door and an interior hallway. I made the decision to fight the fire from the outside due to the smoke conditions, indicating a compartmented fire, the large amount of fire, and the amount of time it would have taken to stretch a line through building back to fire unit. Blunt brought a charged 1 ¾ and I instructed him to apply water and not to enter the unit. By this time the entire window was gone. It looked as if there might be bar joist members sagging and we were near/partially under a mansard parapet so going interior from our location was not a good option. I called Henley and ask him to climb the ladder and find where the HVAC units were, do to the conditions and not knowing construction type at the time, I was concerned about them coming down near us. Henley reported that the units were in the center area of the roof away from our location.

EQUIPMENT USED

Extinguishment was conducted with 1 ¾ line and about 800 gallons of water. It took about three minutes to black it out. After fire was under control, charged smoke appeared to be coming from roof assembly. Building laddered with ground ladder and XL98 attempted to cut roof for inspection, at that time it was realized that the roof was steel decking with 2-inch light weight concrete, the smoke witnessed was coming from fire unit.

Foam Pro from E113 assisted in overhaul.

SPECIAL PROBLEMS THAT OCCURRED

My radio snagged and I had to partially take off SCBA to reposition. Engine 131 had lay across Midway for a supply line to Engine 132. Engine 132 almost ran out of water prior to permanent water being established.

THINGS THAT WORKED WELL

Directly attacking the fire from the exterior saved time and in my opinion kept it spreading past the closed office door that contained it from the rest of the building. This was in coordination with E131, M132, E102, and T131 that entered the building and searched for interior extension. Normally, we are taught to attack from unburned to burned, but in this case, direct moth-to-the-flame worked well. There was good communication and coordination with interior units and E132, they reported no extension or fire/heat being pushed. If they had, E132 would have shut down its line and an attack from the interior to the burned could have been initiated.

THINGS THAT DIDN'T

It wasn't perfect but overall it went pretty well. Operationally, to contain that much fire to a single room was a lot better than I would have hoped for when arriving on scene. The XL98 was brought up the ladder running. They initially suspected arson so the overhaul was delayed and time on scene seemed extended for the investigation.

OTHER COMMENTS

This fire demonstrates the weakness of having only one engine with 3 personnel in a district with the life safety and fire potential present. If I had 4 personnel I would have left one at the plug and gone in with a 2 ½, which I think is preferable on most commercial fires. If a rescue would have been required the fire would have extended into the rest of the building probably resulting in the loss of most if not all the structure. If this structure would have been the same construction as Towerwood, we would have been hard pressed to containing it not only to one unit but one building, with the exposure potential.

In conclusion the construction type, concrete/steel, no common attic ways, and one-hour sheet rock intact with a closed interior door made it possible to directly attack the seat of the fire and contain it to one room. While often preached against in some circles, moth-to-the fire should always be kept as an option, when the conditions allow.