

Westbury Fire Department: Hose Company 2 – Drill 7/24/14 “Thinking Beyond the Obvious or the Norm”

Scenario – 2 1/2 Story Wood Frame Private Dwelling – built early 1900’s . @ 1930 hours the department receives a call for a drier fire (the department training building will be utilized for this exercise) .

Side 1 – Front door 1-2 corner

Side 2 – No windows

Side 3 - Rear patio, Rear door 3-4 corner

Side 4 – Attic Window

*Everything seen can and should be utilized as if it was a real incident, **except** the 1st floor window on the 4/3 corner, which does not exist.*

1st arriving apparatus arrives to a decent smoke condition coming from an open attic window and eaves. The crew is met by the female caller who stated she was watching TV, walked into the kitchen to change the laundry and saw smoke coming from the drier.

She states she got everyone out and called the FD.

The Primary hydrant is 1 ½ houses south of the fire building.

Used for this Scenario:

1 Engine Co.

1 Truck Co. – Arriving 2 minutes behind Engine

1 FAST Team (3 members only **Inside Team** – utilizing equipment off the Ladder on scene – can start staging equipment after truck team pulls their equipment and leaves to fire building)

If manpower permits – 2nd Engine – (Can be light 3 members) – used more to review 2nd Engine’s responsibilities.

Objective: (Instructor's Notes)

I. Size up - What do we have ?

The viewed smoke showing may present to the crew they have an attic fire ?

COAL IS WEALTH

Construction – *Balloon* – Why do we know this – Age of home – Stacked windows

What challenges does this present us – Very quick vertical fire movement

What kind of construction – legacy or modern – how will this affect us?

Legacy – *a lot of mass, good solid structure will typically hold up under fire load unlike with the modern.*

Occupancy – is this an issue? No - occupant stated she got everyone out

Availability - Apparatus and Staff - at 730 PM, is this going to be an Issue? Typically NO

Life Hazard – with no occupancy issues, the only life hazard will be the decisions we or our leaders make for us in controlling this event.

Water Supply – Will this be an issue - hydrants every 500' – summer time ... Shouldn't be an Issue

Auxiliary Appliances – can we expect sprinkles or stand pipes to aid us in our operations? NO

Street Conditions – *Not a Dead End, No hindrances on the street - Shouldn't be an issue unless we create one with an improperly placed apparatus, 5" hose down the middle...*

Weather – Will weather be an issue? Summer – Yes Overheating , Hydration . Typically will need additional resources since members will tire out and overheat quicker.

Exposures – Are there Exposure issues? No

Area – Is Building size an issue? No

Time – Is time of day a problem? No – not like it would be at 1am

Is time of duration of burn going to present a problem? Very Possible – This fire could have gone unnoticed for a quite a long time, smoke and possible fire running between wall studs and venting in attic. Duration of the burning, will affect the fires extension.

Location of fire – do we have a drier fire or a structure fire? More than likely a structure fire, viewed conditions is tell us so, with heavy smoke showing. Smoke = Fire

Hazards – Are we dealing with many hazards ? How about if the drier was in the Garage?
What if we saw Truss Placard at front door – *this tells us houses was modified.*
What if we walked into hoarding conditions? – These dramatically change things
Here what we have been presented – no real hazards.

What are our incident priorities?

Life – reminder, our only life hazard is the decisions we make or are made for us

Property Conservation – Where is that 1st line going (between fire and what is not burning and can protect the most life and/or property)

Incident Mitigation - Once the other priorities are met, we put the fire out

What's our Strategy going to be ? - Offensive, Defensive or Transitional

Maybe if we were light personnel – go Transitional until we had enough on scene – but in this case and after taking everything we learned in our size up into consideration – **Offensive.**

*Hydrant utilized for this scenario will be on side 4 - Engine nosed into it from OCR.
(* senior member will review hitting hydrant with any probie requiring this)
This hydrant will be considered 1.5 houses **South** of the fire building.*

II. Establishing Handlines:

It is anticipated that the crew will pull the 1.75" preconnect – which is our bread and butter.

Calculating the length of hose required -

Most home lots in our district are 50' - 75' (Side to Side) x 100' (Front to Back) and a 100'x100' lot is considered a double lot.

Knowing this, a good way to remember: everything is 100' (2 lengths of hose) from front to back or side to size to size. So, if our engine is 1.5 houses down the street and our front door is at the far end of the property, how many lengths do you need to make it from engine to front door? 1.5 houses = 150' or 3 lengths of hose then from property line to front door another .5 lot or 50' to the door = 200' or 4 lengths, to make the door.

How many lengths do we need to cover entire house? This is typically 2x the largest length of house. If the house is 30'x50' you'll need to cover the 50' twice or 100' = 2 lengths of hose.

In this case where we are dealing with 25' x 75' house, so 75' x 2 = 150'. Can we use our 200' - 1 3/4" preconnect ? NO that 200' and would just make the door - Think outside the box.

We need 200' to make front door and 150' to cover the floor or **350'** but what aren't we taking into consideration? Number of floors we need to cover, or number of stories in home. We may need to go up at least 1 floor, possibly 2 to cover this fire, each @ 25' or 1/2 length of hose = 50' or 1 length for coverage.

TOTALS : 200' or 4 lengths to get to door, 200' 4 lengths to cover house = 400' or 8 length of 1.75", which we typically used at our residential fires. Only problem is we don't use more than 300' of 1.75" due to the high pressures required due to friction losses. How will we overcome this?

Use - 200' 2.5" to front door, reduced to 1.75" with 200' of 1.75" hose

Where will this first line go? Where it can do the most protecting. Protecting interior stairs as searches are being conducted and **NOT to the Smoke in the attic**, putting you above the fire.

Looking beyond the obvious, we go to the fire and not the smoke.

III. Truck Co Responsibilities:

This fire is no different from any other bread and butter house fire we go to, our SOP and Truck company objectives need to be met:

LOVERS: Ladders, Overhaul, Vents, Entry, Rescue/Searches and Salvage.

In this case our search wouldn't necessarily be for locating potential victims and more locating the seat of the fire. It's important to note with this scenario, the seat of the fire may be hidden in walls... and opening these walls without a hose line nearby may present problems for us, especially if this water protection is delayed and a water can could prove a very valuable tool as is a TIC - (Officer, Can & Irons)

What about the Roof and Outside Vents positions?

How important is it to get that roof open and if we do open it, what are we doing to this fire?

If the attic window is already open the eaves are vented and pushing smoke, there is already ventilation ahead of this fire and with the front door now open from our hose entry, we've created a good flow path for this fire. It won't be long before this attic is under fire conditions making this roof very dangerous place to be. READ THE SMOKE – color and velocity tells us a lot.

Note: Most roofs of Balloon framed homes are constructed using wood slats and not solid wood sheathing, unless they have been updated, making the only thing between us and the attic/fire, being the roofing material. If the decision is made to open this roof it should be done from a ladder platform.

How about Vertical Ventilation? Will opening the windows on the 2nd floor be a priority. No. There is already vertical ventilation with the eaves and window, if anything, pull the soffits and take the entire attic windows, enhancing the vertical ventilations that already exists.

With the fire in the walls, potentially already on and through the 2nd floor, venting it without water, could potentially advance this fire the same as horizontal ventilation would.

Horizontal Ventilation- doesn't change, we only do the floor or area of fire when there is water on the fire.

Overhaul and Entry are going to be the main function of the truck at this fire. Walls and ceiling will need to be pulled and opened as quickly as possible to prevent and stop rapid fire advancement. With the light smoke at the fire source and lowest point (Drier Vent) and heavy smoke in the attic, this means the fire is well in the walls, heading up to the attic, how much and how advanced can only be determined from opening the walls and ceiling.

Note: opening areas ahead of the fire will draw the fire up and out that opening since fire always take the course of least resistance to air, so it should be done with line protection. Plus putting water in that opening should control the fire from that point down, using gravity.

What does this mean? Getting that 2nd line in place quickly ahead of the fire could prove very effective but this can only be achieved when the floor below's fire is controlled enough to make that advancement safety, so the crew is not to getting trapped on this floor above, by an unseen or uncontrolled fire later exposing itself.

What if you open an area and there is fire in it, what is that telling us?

The fire is already past you.

IV. Interior FAST Team :

For this scenario we will stage a limited FAST Team, with just a 3 person team and whom would normally fill the interior team of our FAST Team (Fast Leader, Fast 1 , Fast 2).

These firefighters will stage all equipment for their position and fulfill all requirements of their position which includes doing their size up, monitor conditions and assignment on the fire ground, preparing for any potential distress call.

During the course of this drill, a mayday will be transmitted of a firefighter out of air, disorientated in the 1st floor 3-4 corner.

An objective of this Mayday is to assure a proper size up and 360 was conducted.

This firefighter will be located just inside the door of the 3-4 corner that leads directly to the outside and allows the team to remove the distressed firefighters within seconds, if this door is utilized for the mayday, but it's anticipated the team will probably enter through the same door as all other fire operations, at the 1-2 corner, delaying this firefighter's rescue.

The 2nd objective is to see if all other firefighter remain performing there task, not freelance to the downed firefighter and to assure radio discipline is maintained by all operating personnel, during the Mayday.

The 3rd objective is to have the FAST fill the downed firefighter SCBA in realistic darkened conditions utilizing the FAST pack, before removing them from the fire building. This down firefighter will be disorientated but conscious and able to walk, crawl... as specified by this Fast team.

In Conclusion:

The main objective of this drill is to have firefighters think beyond the things they normally do day in and day out. Every fire is different, there is no “cookie cutter” fire and firefighters need to be able to think, observe, comprehend and react according, all while maintaining situational awareness of what is going on around them and avoiding complacency. At this drill members will be confronted with a fire that presents as an attic fire, with little to no smoke on the 1st and 2nd floor but heavy smoke in the attic. Members fighting this fire need to recognize this was a drier vent fire that extended up the wall in the balloon frame structure and presents as an attic fire. Operating in this attic without controlling the fire below them will have them above the actual fire floor(s), a very dangerous place to be especially if the fire eventually presents on one of the floor below, them pinning them. Members at this drill will need to adapt when their normal 200-300’ 1.75” attack line is now 400’. How will they overcome keeping that 1.75” maneuverability in the residential structure but managing the big friction loss. The truck is always told to be aggressive with their vents, making the conditions better for operating teams, here in doing so they could be making conditions worse, changing the fire flow path within the structure and potentially creating flashover conditions. Lastly the FAST team will need to think beyond going in the front door to rescue the distressed firefighter, utilize what they see and hear to make that rescue as swiftly as possible, which is not always through the front door.

Topics discussed in this drill will encompass – Size Up, Line stretching, Ventilation, Searching, Line Placement, Radio Discipline, Mayday, and Fast Operations. Once the scenario is completed it will be critiqued and all items in this scenario script discussed.