

Supplement Name: Callahan, Matt

T1 initially saw a column of smoke from High Street while responding, and was the first apparatus (to park) at scene, (Battalion Chief 1 drove around the block to see all sides of the structure prior to parking behind T1). T1 turned onto Higuera Street and saw a working fire in a single story commercial structure with fire rolling out of multiple windows on side A. The fire was in its fully developed state. Bright orange flames were rolling out the broken windows, passing over the exterior overhang (soffit) and above the roof line. As T1 drove past the fire and parked between 307 Higuera and 303 Higuera, I could not tell whether on not the fire was both in front of, and behind side A exterior wall (through the roof), or just in front of the exterior wall above the roof. I instructed my crew to prepare for a vertical roof ventilation assignment. Stepping out of T1, BC1 stopped in his vehicle next to me after completing his drive around the buildings. BC1 instructed me to go to the roof to see if it was safe enough to work on, (cut/ventilate on), in order to have the super heated gases, smoke and fire escape vertically so ground crews could attack the fire from below. T1 crew began to gather the necessary tools and equipment. FF1 placed a 24 ft ladder at the fire wall separating 307 and 303 Higuera, while Ladder 1 placed the aerial ladder over 303 Higuera. Operator 1 brought two chain saws and two rubbish hooks to the 24 ft ladder. At this time BC1 drove behind T1 to set up an ICP. At the same time E4 was flaking hose lines in the street on side A, and charging a supply line.

T1, Operator 1, and FF1 (Callahan, Hicks, Renner) proceeded to the roof of 307 Higuera. I instructed my firefighter to place the ladder at 307 Higuera in order to be away from powerlines above us, and charged hoselines on the ground below us (tripping hazards while going on, and coming off ladders with tools). We sounded/walked across 303 Higuera roof. We first placed an escape roof ladder (from the aerial ladder now over 303), at the fire wall between 303 Higuera and 299 Higuera half way down side B. This was done to provide for a quick escape over the four foot parapit wall in case we needed to retreat and were overcome with heat and exhaustion and unable to climb over the fire wall onto 303's roof. We then walked to the corner B/C of 299 Higuera (the Sub). We sounded the roof of 299 Higuera prior to stepping onto the roof. The roof felt very solid and had a new white rubberized membrane covering it. We could see active fire above the roof on side A. The height of the flames were 8 to 10 feet high, and across the entire left side of side A of the building. FF1 did a 2 ft triangle shape inspection cut eight feet from the corners B/C. High volume of black pressurized smoke came out the inspection cut hole as he was making the cut. FF1 layed down on the roof, reached in the hole to feel the support beams in order to find out what we were standing on. (FF1 was wearing gloves, full PPE and an SCBA). I was concerned that the entire attic was going to flash over and ignite the entire space, (along with my firefighter's arm and shoulder) so I instructed him to step back. FF1 reported that the roof was fully dimensional 2x4 rafters covered with 1x6s and plywood on top of that. High volume preassurized smoke was pushing out of the opening under force. Additional pressurized black smoke was coming out of roof vents. We were at the back of the building, so I knew that the entire attic was filled with superheated gas and would be igniting momentarily. Additionally I knew that the fire was well established in the interior of the structure. We sounded the roof for strength and proceeded toward side A where we cut 3 vent holes, approximately 3 ft by 4 ft wide in an attempt to put vent holes above the seat of the fire in order to slow

the lateral spread of heat, smoke and gases toward the rear of the structure. While my FF and Engineer were cutting, I observed that the fire was 15 feet in front of us and on the exterior street side of the structure. Each hole released high volume pressurized smoke. We moved back toward side C. By now active fire was coming out of the three vent holes approximately 10 ft in height, occupying the entire space of each cut hole. We cut 3 more vent holes with the same results- 10 ft high flame lengths over the entire space of the opening. The roof still felt very solid. In front of us were the six 3x4 ft holes, each putting out active fire, behind us was the smaller inspection cut hole pumping out pressurized smoke and fire.

Fire was now running across the entire attic of 299 Higuera Street.

Captain Vasquez

then came up the 24 ft extension ladder and told us to get off the roof. The roof felt very solid and we were never far from stepping over a fire wall and onto a safe roof, but I said to my crew that Captain Vasquez sees something from his vantage

point that we can not see, so we are getting off the roof. There was much radio traffic on Tac 1, so I did not ask what he was seeing.

On the ground, BC1 (now Sub IC) assigned me as Division Alpha which included T1, E4, E21, and eventually T2 at the corner of Division A and C. (T2 later became a part of Division C.) T1, E4 and E21 monitors were put in operation along with E4 ground monitor.

E2 Captain King (Division B) was interior of 303 Higuera and stating on Tac 1 that there

was smoke interior. I met with Chief 1 on Higuera street and discussed with him

that there was a fire wall that I could see from the roof between the Sub and Division B, 303 Higuera, and I was going with my crew to the roof of 303 Higuera to see if fire was now in 303. IC concurred via face to face communication. An initial inspection cut

revealed that pressurized smoke was in the attic of 303 Higuera. The fire wall between the two businesses was clearly seen from on top of the roof. Therefore fire had gotten into 303 Higuera from an opening/door interior. The fire had escaped from the Sub and was now in the business next

door. Knowing that Captain King and his crew were interior, T1 crew cut three vent holes to release the heat and smoke. Thus protecting the crew and preventing further lateral spread toward the back of the structure where an additional fire wall could be seen from the roof in the back of side C.

Upon coming off the roof, a collapse zone was established along Division A, and no personnel or hose lines were allowed to cross the double yellow lines in the center of the street. The primary hazard, a large stucco wall/sign fell interior, a secondary hazard, the front soffit fell forward. the third hazard. a brick parapit wall cracked but remained intact. E21 was instructed to shut down their monitor to allow T2 to have a better water supply. The E4 ground monitor and T1 monitor were repositioned to fight the fire as it spread to 303 Higuera.

Division A became a diesel fuel logistics mgr and took inventory of apparatus fuel needs and filled apparatus according to need. JP Dewer supplied the fuel. T1 aerial monitor remained in use until initial knock down occurred. T1 was

repositioned to Division C at 2245 hours. Active deep fire was still interior of side C. From on top of the aerial ladder, I could see fire through holes in the attic floor below on the first floor. Applying the master stream down one hole would cause fire to come stronger out of another hole. Not until the attic floor collapsed into the first floor and open up the entire area could the aerial put out the main body of fire.

T1 remained at scene for the duration of the night utilizing the aerial master stream putting out hot spots that continued to occur in the deep high pile storage both in the attic and on the first floor.