Supplement Name: King, Michael

Date/Name: Mon Jan 04 13:17:08 PST 2016, Mike King

Conditions found: Upon arrival, E-2 found a well involved commercial structure fire with heavy fire and smoke showing out of side A, near the A/D corner. B-1, T-1, and E-4 were on scene prior.

Actions taken: E-2 personnel secured the hydrant at side A and supplied T-1, as well as pulled an 1 3/4" attack line off E-4 and assisted E-4 with fire attack through the windows on Side A, from which heavy fire and black turbulent smoke was extending out into the street actively burning, initial hoselines were having minimal effects, as the fire continued to burn aggressively.

E-2 was then re-assigned by Sub IC to Division B, and made entry into 303 Higuera through the front door on Side A (Higuera street entrance) to assess for fire extension into the building. Division B was assigned Cal-Fire E-21 as well, which were given the 2 out assignment to back up E-2 personnel while interior of the structure. E-2 searched the unit for fire and found only light smoke and no fire with good viability of the ceiling at that time. The building consisted of high piled storage throughout the majority of the occupancy with heavy fuel loading in storage racks above the main floor in portions of the building. Division B remained in position with an 1 3/4" for interior exposure protection. Upon returning outside for a bottle swap, Division B and Firefighter 2 were approached by employees of the business requesting we retrieve a computer server essential to the business operations that was located in an office closet near the A/B corner. As we retrieved the initial computer server and brought it to the business representative, he requested that we continue to retrieve additional servers that ended up being approximately six or seven total trips in and out of the building to deliver these to him. During this salvage operation, conditions deteriorated quickly, and upon our final trip inside to retrieve the last computer server, the entire area was rapidly filled with thick dark smoke banked down to the floor with increasing temperature and we exited the building and transferred the last computer server to the employee outside. Heavy, pressurized brown smoke was pumping from the Side A doors and windows making re-entry untenable. Shortly after we exited the building the fire had fully extended into the office areas in the Division A/B section and was visible through the doorway we initially made entry in. Division B and A personnel then applied 1 3/4" and 2 1/2" hose streams into the doorway and windows on Side A of 303 Higuera with minimal effect.

Division B personnel then performed extinguishment from the exterior of side A on the heavy smoke and fire now showing from 303 Higuera utilizing 2 1/2" and 1 3/4" hoselines.

Division B was then assigned to enter the adjacent building at 307 Higuera to check for any fire extension, and found none, however, there was smoke and water damage as a result of the moderate amount of smoke drifting in and firefighting operations. The fire wall was concrete along the exposure between 303 and 307 Higuera, and was not registering any significant heat when utilizing the TIC and kept the fire from extending into the structure. Division B personnel removed the water from the structure utilizing backpack water pump and squeegees.

Follow up: E-2 was released by Sub IC and returned to quarters.

Possible cause: See Investigators report.

Captain Mike King