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Polk County Fire Rescue

Post Incident Analysis



Residential Structure Fire

With Entrapment

13802 Rock Ridge Road, Lakeland, FL

Alarm # 1887368

November 23rd, 2018

19:06:54

Battalion 1

This report is intended to serve as a safety and training tool. Information contained herein is subject to revision as further investigation is conducted and additional information is developed.

Prepared by: Battalion Chief Jeremiah Gilley Date: 12/06/2018

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Incident Data

Incident Date:

November 23rd, 2018

Incident Report Number:

1887368

Alarm Time:

19:06:54

Incident Location:

13802 Rock Ridge Road

Polk County Fire Rescue Units Responding:

Engine 6, Engine 23, Engine 39, Squad 7, Rescue 6, Brush 23, Medic 231, Battalion 1, Battalion 3, Tender 39, Tender 15, Tender 4, Air Truck 19, Chief 506.

Mutual Aid Units Responding:

Auburndale Fire Department Tender 4.

Type of Incident:

Residential Structure Fire with entrapment.

Weather:

Warm, dry, no precipitation.

Response delays:

No response delays noted. E-23 had a faster response time because they were already traveling to another call closer to this call than their station is. They were near Kathleen Middle School when the call came in.

Executive Summary

A residential structure fire occurred at this address. The home was a wood frame log cabin. One occupant of the residence perished in the fire. The fire origin and cause remains undetermined at this time and is under investigation by the State Fire Marshal's Office. The structure was inhabited and served as the home for two people. The structure did have power. There were no hydrants in the area. Access to the structure was blocked by overgrown trees and an uneven and unpaved dirt roadway.

This emergency call had several components which led to it being the "perfect storm". To begin, it was a predominantly wood frame structure located in a remote urban/rural interface without water supply. The occupant of the home was not readily ambulatory, and the first call for help was made to a family member and not to 911, which ultimately delayed emergency response.

The view of the home was hidden from the street by the woods and there was not a visible numerical address. The road access to the home was also overgrown with trees and the road itself is most likely unpassable by a typical fire apparatus even if the trees had been trimmed back. Any type of residential firefighting operations with an obstacle of performing operations with the closest apparatus parking 300 to 400 feet away has a higher probability for a poor outcome.

Evidence suggests the home did not have working smoke detectors, because none were heard in the background of the twenty minute intake call recorded by Dispatch. The residence also had several (10 or more) trees close to or touching the house. This further hid the fire and structure from the roadway and hampered firefighting operations.

Benchmarks

Accountability:

Accountability initially was overseen by Captain 6, James Williams, who assumed Command of the scene upon his arrival and established accountability on the Alpha side of the structure at Engine 6 (side facing the driveway to the home). Accountability was taken over by Battalion 3, Yevgeniy Gorokhov, shortly after his arrival.

Initial strategy:

A defensive fire attack was initiated by the first on scene Captain, James Williams, and his engine crew. Captain Williams reported a working fire in the structure so heavily involved he did not feel entering the structure was safe. Furthermore he reported active and fallen power lines on the Alpha/Delta side of the structure which would have prohibited access and hindered doing a walk around of the entire structure. The defensive attack utilized by Captain Williams consisted of deploying a courtyard lay of 300 feet of 2.5" hose to a gated wye and then reducing down to a 1 and 3/4" handline. The courtyard lay was deployed down the driveway. A second handline was later added once a sufficient water supply was established with the use of Tender trucks. The closest hydrant to this address is over five (5) miles away.

Staffing:

Two battalion chiefs, three engines, one squad, one medic unit, one rescue, four tenders, an air truck, a medic unit, and one brush truck responded to the scene for a total of 18 firefighters and two single-cert. employees

Safety Officer:

Safety functions were overseen by Command using Bluecard protocol. Accountability was overseen by Command, (James Williams initially) and then taken over by Battalion 3, Yevgeniy Gorokhov, for the duration of the call. No Safety Officer responded to this call.

Rehab:

Medic 231 established Rehab per orders from Incident Command.

