



FIREFIGHTERCLOSECALLS.COM

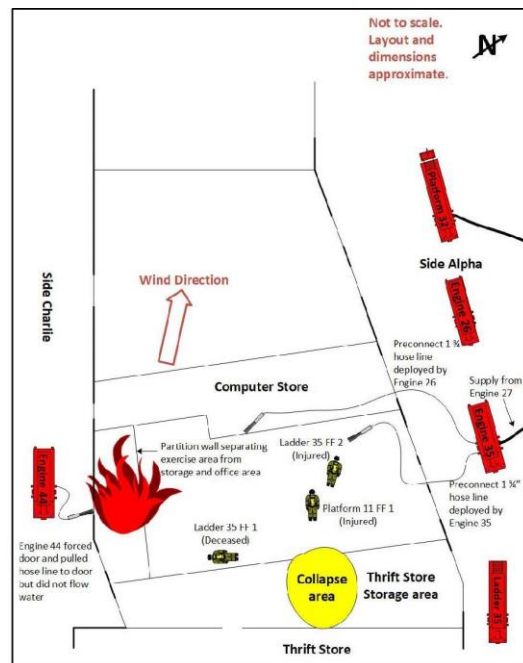
NIOSH FF Fatality Report 2017-14

On May 18, 2017, Firefighter Scott Deem of Ladder 35 of the San Antonio, (TX) Fire Department died in the line of duty after fire conditions rapidly deteriorated inside a commercial strip mall.

Ladder 35 was the first apparatus to arrive on-scene at 2117 hours. The Ladder 35 Captain sized up the scene, assumed Incident Command (IC), and directed Engine 35, the first arriving engine, to pull a hoseline while the two Firefighters from Ladder 35 forced open the front door to a fitness center where smoke was showing. The two Ladder 35 Firefighters were then directed to perform a quick search for victims while Engine 35 went interior for an offensive attack. A second alarm was also requested.

As the search was being conducted, conditions began to deteriorate very rapidly. A MAYDAY was requested and the IC was unable to make radio contact with FF Deem. Rapid Intervention Teams were immediately sent in but they were unable to find him. The IC was forced to abandon the search due to extreme fire conditions. While operations were shut down, a Firefighter saw the reflective trim of FF Deem's SCBA near the Side B wall and he was removed from the building.

Scott Deem was 31 years old and had a wife and 3 children.



Key Contributing Factors

- Arson fire
- No sprinkler system in commercial structure
- High wind conditions
- Zero-visibility and cluttered floor space impeded hoseline advancement
- Freelancing fire tactics
- Crew integrity not maintained
- Uncoordinated ventilation

Read the entire report at:

<https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/pdfs/face201714.pdf>

<https://www.tdi.texas.gov/reports/fire/documents/ffsadeem.pdf>