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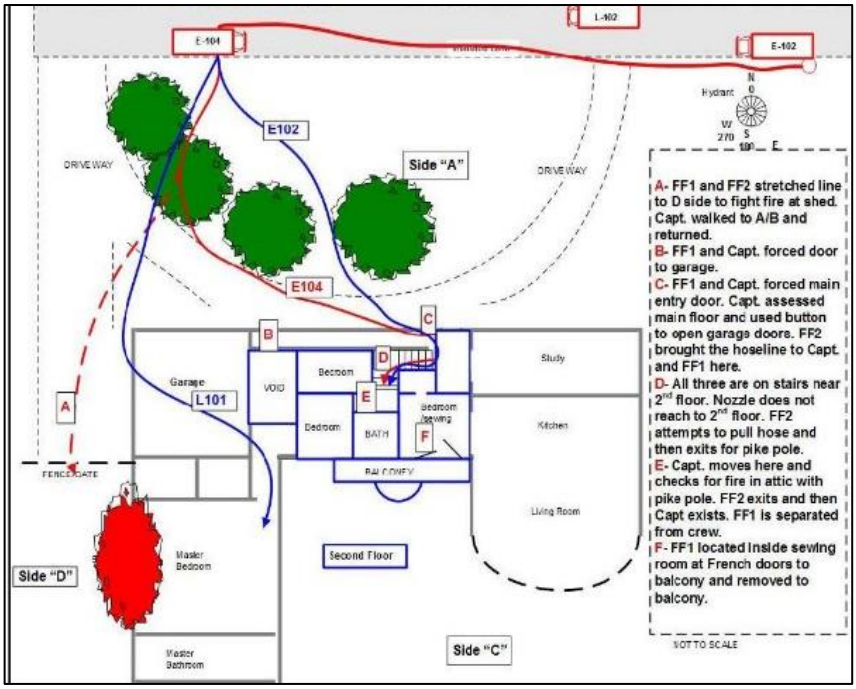
## NIOSH FF Fatality Report 2014-15

On July 9, 2014, Firefighter Daniel Groover of the Houston (TX) Fire Department died in the line of duty while conducting interior operations at a two-story residential structure fire.

At 1555 hours Engine 104 was dispatched for a reported shed fire. Upon arrival they observed fire and black smoke from Side C and D of the structure and the Captain requested a box alarm. The crew reported hearing ammunition going off while they advanced a 1 ¾" hoseline. The Captain and FF Groover forced entry to the front door and after only observing minimal smoke and no visible fire or civilians, proceeded to a narrow stairway to the 2nd floor.

FF Groover, the Captain and another Firefighter went to the top of the stairs and began searching for civilians and fire. After the Captain heard one of the Firefighters say that they were getting hot and low on air, backed the crew down the stairs. It was then realized that FF Groover was missing. Going back to the 2nd floor the Captain heard a PASS device in the room to his left, notified the Incident Commander and then had to back out due to being low on air.

Engine 63 made entry through the rear double doors off the deck on the 2nd floor and located FF Groover just inside the double doors. He was taken down a ladder to the yard and was then transported to the hospital where he died from his injuries. He was 46 years old and had a wife and 3 children.




## Key Contributing Factors

- Crew integrity
- Air management
- MAYDAY procedures
- Firefighting experience
- Operational characteristics of the SCBA and other life safety devices
- Fireground communications
- Ventilation timing
- Hoseline deployment
- Construction features of the residence
- Munition hazards

**Read the entire report at:**

https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/pdfs/face201415.pdf