



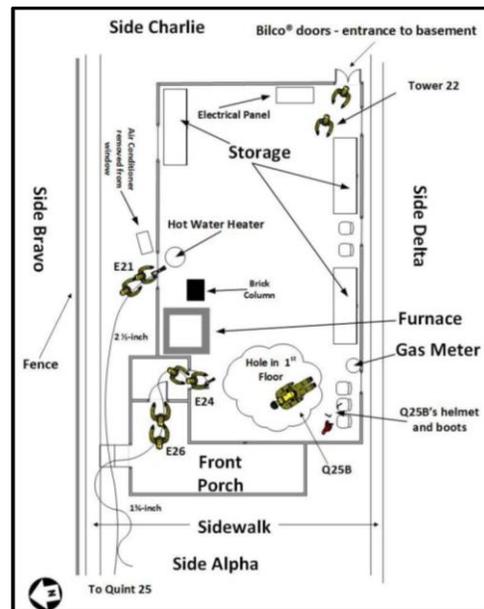
NIOSH FF Fatality Report 2015-19

On December 28, 2015, 28 year old FF Patrick Wolterman of the Hamilton, Ohio FD died due to thermal injury and smoke inhalation at a single family residential fire. He responded to that alarm as the firefighter on Quint 25.

At 0113 hours companies were dispatched to a report of a residential structure fire and dispatch advised that heavy, black smoke was showing. The dispatcher further advised at 0114 that two elderly people may be in the house, and that smoke was coming from the basement in the back of the house. **Neither of these radio transmissions were on the dispatch channel or simulcast on the tactical channel.**

Quint 25 responded at 0114 hours and was on-scene at 0117 hours. Heavy smoke was showing from the front half of the house, but no flames were visible. After checking the B and C sides of the house, the acting officer on Quint 25 decided to enter the house through the front door, which was at the B/A corner. The engineer had stretched a 1 3/4" hoseline to the front door. FF Wolterman made entry into the foyer and then turned right into the family/living room. As he crawled forward the floor collapsed and he fell into the basement. The acting officer and the foyer were immediately enveloped in fire. The officer from E24 called a MAYDAY at 0123 hours. In approximately 10 minutes, FF Wolterman was located and removed from the basement. He was transported to the hospital where he died from his injuries.

Patrick left behind a wife, sister, brother, and family.



Contributing Factors

- Arson fire
- Incomplete size-up
- Wind-driven fire
- Lack of tactical priorities (incident action plan)
- Lack of resource status management
- Lack of command safety
- Ineffective dispatch center operations
- Lack of a written professional development plan

Read the entire report at:

<https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/pdfs/face201519.pdf>