

ATTACKING CHARLIE

Attacking the fire from the “Charlie” side is the best method of fire control in certain situations. Keep in mind when I say “Charlie” side this could also mean “Alpha, Bravo, Charlie or Delta”. So when we say “Charlie” in this drill we are attacking a volume of fire burning on the exterior of the building. We would never pass fire burning on the front side (A side) of the structure so why do we not attack it on side B,C and D? For this evolution the fire is an exterior fire propagating to the interior.

Step 1 – 360 Size up and Walk around to confirm fire and confirm fire on the exterior.

Step 2 – Deploy a hand line to the exterior only when pre-connects are suitable for the stretch. A short stretch wastes time and effort.

Step 3 – Hit the exterior fire, Hit the interior fire gases, Hit from the interior.

Considerations—Pre-connects/initial lines will reach the target area, booster tank will provide enough water, target flows are 150-200 gallons per minute. Fire location, extent and involvement can be accessed and knocked down quickly with your initial line. The exterior hit reduces flaming

combustion, reduces temperatures where the fire is most efficient aka plenty of fuel, heat and oxygen to spread/grow. If another unit arrives and can deploy interior before the line is re-positioned to the interior, they can make the interior push but the first line now becomes a second line into the interior or an exposure line. **DO NOT HAVE OPPOSING HANDLINES!**

The Drill: Using a 3-4 member company and a single engine, deploy an initial attack line to an opposing side of a determined area with a stream target in place. Flow the line for approximately 30 seconds, then re-deploying the line to the point of entry. Follow local protocols for making entry, then position the line to the an interior position.

Actions shall include:

A member completing a 360 size up and providing a radio report.

Deploy an adequate hose stretch and reach target flow rates.

Provide fire suppression.

Re-position line to proper interior position.

All evolutions will be performed at real time/full speed, flowing water and accountability/safety will be implemented.

Another Engine Company Drill by Christopher Huston.

