

## Two Alarms and a Fire Fatality on Generation Drive

01/04/15 326 W, 2 I - + 8 - 5

Raleigh firefighters faced a challenging fire on Friday night at 1914 Generation Drive. That's a four-story, wood-frame, garden-style apartment building with 17,160 square-feet. Fourteen units, which are two-story. Built 1974. But the building has two addresses. (As do most of the buildings in the complex.)

The top two floors are addressed as 1929 North Hills Drive. The bottom two floors are addressed as Generation Drive. And, you can't access the bottom from the top, unless you either (a.) crawl/slide/jump into a "pit" in the front of the building, or (b.) walk around three buildings which adjoin, and descend a severely sloped hill.

Engine 16 arrived with nothing showing and found a burn victim on the front patio of a first-floor apartment. Firefighters began patient care, while the officer continued the size-up. The fire apartment was located as facing Generation Drive. The call was upgraded to smoke showing. As searches were started, smoke and heat began building. The call was upgraded to a working fire.

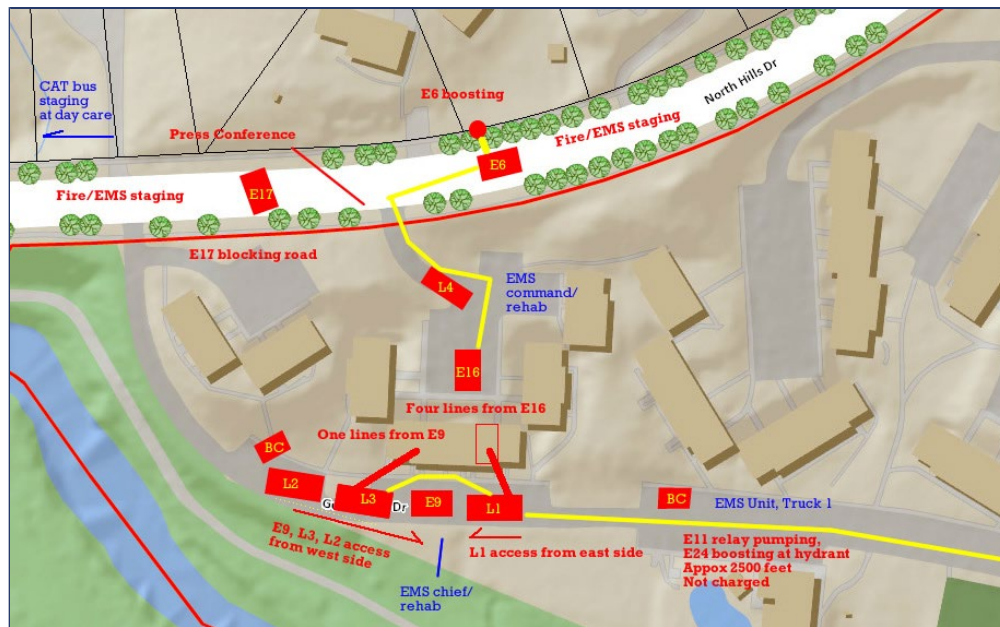
As conditions continued to worsen, a second alarm was struck. Further deteriorations prompted preparations for defensive operations. However, a transitional attack negated that need and crews resumed interior work.



Cause was determined as incendiary, as the result of a suicide attempt. The eighteen year-old female victim was transported to WakeMed and transferred to the UNC burn center. She died on Saturday as a result of her injuries. See news stories including [WRAL](#) and [WTVB](#).

Believe this is the first fatal fire in the city since September 15, 2009. Fatal fire totals by my count, over the last fifteen years: 2009 - 2, 2008 - 1, 2007 - 4, 2006 - 2, 2005 - 2, 2004 - 3, 2003 - 1, 2002 - 5, 2001 - 8, 2000 - 2. *Correction: Last fire fatality was December 12, 2003. Adult male, 78.*

Read a full narrative with [my posted photos](#). The first versions of those have been published, and include after images of the buildings and the topography. Also included is the below diagram. Click to enlarge:



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