

Last Night's Fire on Martin Street

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[WRAL has posted a few photos](#) from last night's fire at the old Martin Street Groceries, which was reported aflame at [1016 E. Martin Street](#) at 2:30 a.m. Controlled at 4:30 a.m. Engine 3 arrived with fire showing from the roof of the one-story, former commercial structure. One firefighter sustained a small burn to the face due to burning embers. Cause under investigation.



WRAL photo

Anyone that was there, want to provide any details? I'll ask two questions; 1) Why not bring the stick to ground level and go right in the front? 2) Why aren't there any big lines on the ground at Side A?

I know a good job was done, and the building was vacant and deemed unsafe through proactive pre-planning. I was just wondering about the stream placement, that's all.

Silver - 01/07/11 - 11:26

@Silver, I've always wondered about the reason for the ladder being up so high myself. I've seen pictures of multiple fires where the ladder will be almost fully-extended flowing on a 2-story house. Who knows? Maybe it's the way you truckies have always done it?

RescueRanger - 01/07/11 - 20:16

Low ladder pipe in action on Millbrook Road, <http://legeros.com/ralwake/photos/2009-0..>

Remember that fire? Very smokey!

Legeros - 01/07/11 - 22:38

@RR...well, we mentioned it in the Ladder Ops training in the initial class when discussing fires in strip malls. Getting a big gun, maybe two, in the front and low would definitely blow it out the back and be more effective and have better penetration. One of the reasons why we should have the ladder apparatus in the front.

Here's a good pic depicting that; <http://chicagoareafire.com/blog/wp-conte..>

Silver - 01/07/11 - 23:25

So why not just use a deluge gun instead?

Richie - 01/08/11 - 08:47

Well, you can get the ladder tip or bucket closer without damaging the paint!! Plus, it's quicker deployment unless you've been training on grabbing the master stream from up top and setting it up.

From the safety side, using the master stream from the Ladder Company would be safer, since you wouldn't have to worry about having someone man the thing on the concrete/pavement.

Silver - 01/08/11 - 18:41

The problem with pre-piped deluge guns on apparatus is that firefighters tend to forget they can be dismantled and setup remotely. As a result, they sit on the apparatus like a conversation piece with little to no use. Or worse, think they can only be used if they put the engine at the front door.

JJ - 01/09/11 - 08:25

Don't forget the use of a couple of 2 1/2 hand-lines placed up front, you do some pretty quick work with them also.

Watson - 01/09/11 - 14:24

Agreed. We use 2" (yes, I know, very old school), but still would be very effective. Put a few SMOOTHBORES in the front and let it ride...

Silver - 01/09/11 - 15:08

And now the rest of the story; exposure in the rear and power lines in the front made it better to attack from high above and straight down. Now we all know, and makes sense 100%!!

Silver - 01/18/11 - 23:01

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