

## **John Barylick – “Killer Show”**

- Fire Prevention has More Bang for the Buck than you Think
- Fire Occurred 2/20/2003
- He Goes over Brief Run Down of the Night. 96 People Died Immediately Inside the Club
  - 4 People Died in Days, Weeks Later
- How Could this Happen in the “New Millennial”
- Building was grandfathered in, with No Sprinklers. Defined as a “Place of Public Assembly.”

### **Negligence & Greed, Trumped Safety**

- It was Not 1 Mistake
- Building was a old Spaghetti Restaurant
- There was a Residential House about 100 feet away & they always complained about the Noise from the Club. So, Several Steps Taken:
  - Sound Insulation
- The “Band Door”
  - Must be Closed when the Band is Playing
  - Only Band People can use the Door
- Bouncers Turned Several People away from the “Band Door”
- 2 Ladies Found in Bathroom with Cell Phone with the Last Numbers Still in it, 911
- Several Pool Tables Turned Sideways & Pushed up Against Walls

### **Central Characters**

- Jack Russell – “Great White”
  - Went around Country Playing Cheap Shows, Shooting off Pyro wherever they could get Away with it.
- Jeff & Michael Derderian – Club Owners
  - Jeff Was a TV Reporter
  - Changed Jobs 3 Weeks Prior to Fire
  - 21 People Killed at a Chicago Nightclub in a Trampling, Prompted Jeff to do a Story on Nightclub Safety so he had a Cameraman at the Club, Recording at the Outbreak of the Fire
- Club Patrons
  - Blue Collar Biker Bar
  - Median Age 32, because “Great White” Heyday was in the 1980s

- Alcohol really didn't play a significant Factor in the Number of Deaths
- Everyone was in the Wrong Place at the Wrong Time
- First Responders
  - FD was Only ½ Mile Down the Road
  - Off Duty Cop Bouncing at the Club Called in the Fire Very Quickly
  - Engine and Ladder On Scene within 2 Minutes & Building was Already Fully Involved
  - Very Good & Efficient Triage of Patients, 150+ Ambo's Staged, and Called in 1 at a Time.
    - No One Lost Their Lives in Triage, Transport, Staging, or First Few Days at the Hospital
- Dennis Larocque – Fire Marshall

### **Major Story Lines**

- The Cameraman – Brian Butler
- Egg Crate Polyurethane Foam
- The Pickett – Audio Tape (Matthew Pickett)
  - His Hobby was Making Bootlegged Audio Tapes. He Carried a Walkman Recording Device with him & Recorded for 10 minutes prior to “Great White” Playing until it was found on his Body.
- Everything Turned on Luck of Location
- The Band & Many Patrons didn't Immediately Recognize a Fire, They Thought it was Part of the Show
  - Took Approx. 25 Seconds to Realize
- Barylick Shows a Clip from Brian Butler Video, Class Amazed at the Speed and Intensity of the Fire
- The Floor of the Front Entry way was a Slight Downward Slope, so Inevitably someone will Fall, & it was a Chain Reaction, & People were Jammed Floor to Ceiling
- 2/3 of Crowd will go to the Same Exit they Came in By
- Many Other Videos Surfaced of Other Bands Setting off Pyro at “the Station”

### **Only 3 Criminal Indictments**

1. Dan Biechele – The Band Member who Physically Connected up the Pyro
  - a. Spent 16 Months in Prison
2. Jeff Derderian – Club Owner
  - a. Spent No Time In Prison

3. Michael Derderian – Club Owner
  - a. Spent 23 Months In Prison  
*\*All Charged with 100 Counts of Manslaughter*
- The Foam Covered: The Entire West Wall, Drummer's Alcove, Band Door, and a Small Section Above Stage/Dance Floor
- Barylick Went After Several People to try to Get Compensation for the Families, The Problem He Ran into was the Club, Band, and Town Had No Money
  - The Town Only had \$6 Million of Insurance
  - The Club Only had \$1 Million of Insurance (They Filed for Bankruptcy)

#### **Who Barylick Went After to Sue**

- Foam Suppliers – Didn't Have Warning Labels
- Promoters – TV Station & Busch Beer
- Busch Had Sales Reps Inside Talking up the Beer and Giving Samples
- Insurance Inspectors – Paid \$45 for a Inspection and “Never Noticed the Foam Covering the Walls”
  - Only Group of People Thrown out in Court because Purpose of Inspections were “Not for Fire Safety”
- Brian Butler – “Was Standing in the Doorway Recording & No one Could Get around Him
- Polyethylene Foam Manufacturers – In 1996, Howard Julian (the previous owner) Screwed Several 17x17in. Sheets on the Walls
- Pinch Point between the Ticket Desk and the Counter was Only 33In.

#### **Fire Marshall – Dennis Larocque**

- Raised Occupancy from 253, to 317, then to 404
- “Didn't Recognize Foam on the Walls”
- Howard Julian (Previous Owner) met with Larocque in 1999 & asked to raise the Occupancy Limit. Larocque told Julian to remove some of the Tables and Called those Areas “Standing Room” & Raised the Limit to 317. To Give Julian a Better Chance of Selling for More Money
- 2 Months Later the Derderian Brothers Bought the Club and Met with Larocque and Again Asked to Get the Occupancy Limit Above 400. Larocque told them that on Concert Nights to Remove ALL the Furniture from the Club and Larocque will call the entire Building “Standing Room” and the Limit was Raised to 404

- As Best as able to reproduce, there were 462 People in the Club at the Time of the Fire
- Barylick shows Video of Match Flame Test to Test the Flammability of the Egg Crate Foam. It was Completely Consumed and a Puddle in LESS THAN 5 SECONDS
- The Foam Even Covered the Band Door, Which Larocque Cited Twice for Opening Inward. But In Order to Open the Door you had to reach through a Hole in the Foam to Touch Doorknob. But Larocque “Never Noticed it”

*“Immunity of the Fire Marshall” Law in Rhode Island says...*

“Any Fire Marshall acting in Good Faith, without Malice Shall be Free from Liability by Reason of Any Act or Omission in Performance of his/her Duty.”

### **“Mystery Fuel”**

- The Egg Crate Foam was Not Enough to Sustain a Fire, it Burns Very Fast, and then Goes out
- It was Discovered that Howard Julian, in 1996, Screwed 17x17in Sheets of Polyethylene Foam to the Walls

Nikki Nicketlius – Black Sabbath Tribute Band

- While Loading his Band Stuff, He Noticed a Stack of White Foam Blocks and Threw Some in his car for Lining Instrument Cases
- Barylick tries to go after the Polyethylene Foam Manufactures for “Foreseeable Misuse”
  - Howard Julian Says he Doesn’t Know where the Foam Panels came From
  - The, then Band Manager, says he “Found it in a Dumpster”

### **Take-A-ways for Firefighters**

- It CAN HAPPEN in the New Millennial
- 1 Person Doing the Right Thing, Can Break the Chain of Causation
- Barylick Shows a Number of Still Pictures, Showing the Last Minutes Inside the Club
- Only About 18 People Got out of the Band Door. 16 Were with the Band
- The Bouncers at the Band Door were Not Prosecuted because it was a He-Said-She-Said

# **Joe Pronesti – Size Up & Command for the Small Department Avoiding the FOG of the Fireground**

- In the Job we THINK we are Better than we Really are, Than your hit with the 1 Incident Where your LUCKY
- Pronesti Says the Entire Class is Based on a Fire where he got “Lost in the Fog” (*W. River Rd. Fire 12-30-09*)

## **“Start Feeding Your 300 Year Old Mind”**

- Marines Have Warfighting for 3000 Years, So they have to Study 3000 Years of War. Conversely, the Fire Service has been around for 300 Years, so We MUST study those 300 Years of “Wars”
- TODAY’S FIRE SERVICE DOES NOT DO A GOOD ENOUGH OF TEACHING THE YOUNGER MEMBERS OF OUR HISTORY
- Pronesti Worries No one Reads Anymore, Especially NIOSH Reports
- You’re either Right or Wrong on the Internet. Younger Members Face the Problem of “What do I Look at?”
- Pronesti Show General Patton Clip. “You Magnificent Bastard, I Read Your Book!” He Explains Need to Read your “Fire Books”

## **How Do We Become Lost?**

- Failure to Prepare Ourselves
- Lack of Focus
- Failure to Prepare the Troops
- Failing to “Listen”
- Complacency

Pronesti Reviews NIOSH 5, U of GA, and NFFF Firefighter Fatalities Studies. Says it’s a thing to pin to a Bulletin Board, Especially if you don’t go to a lot of Fires

## **Eastern Flight 401 – “The Light Bulb”**

- Light Bulb went out Indicating if the Landing Gear was down or not. Pilot and Co Pilot became so Focused on this, they Didn’t Realize the Plane came out of Auto-Pilot and Crashed

- We Have a Fire Service where we Don't do a lot of Interior Work on a Commercial Fire
- Pronesti Asks for the Youngest Guy in the Room, Tells the Chief Officers to Think of How they are Educating New Guys Especially on a Type 3 Basement Fire
- Failing to "Cut up the Pie"
- Knowing the Building Construction, Knowing the Voids, and Getting Ahead of the Fire = Keys to Fireground Success

### **Common Error #1 – Hoseline Selection**

- We Stretch a lot, But How Proficient are we?
- Joe Shows the Raw Oscar Armstrong Fire Video (Cincinnati, 2002)
  - First Due Stretched a 350ft. Attack Line
  - Fire Progressed to Flashover in 3:40
- Length X Width ÷ 3
- Crosslays are Not a 1 Size Fits All
- Must be Proficient with "The Gun"
- Pronesti Tells Everyone to go Look at Statter911.com for Great Fire Videos
  - He Gives you the Address, You Go put it into Google Maps, and you Have a 5 Minute Quick Drill

### **Common Error #2 – Not Listening to Interior Reports or Not Getting Them At All**

- Pronesti Most Interested with the Small Sized Departments where the LT. or CAPT. Is Riding up in IC position, and Still has to "Do Work"
- SO MUCH Information on the Radio is NOT Important
- CAN Reports are one of the Best Tools you can Use on the Fireground

### *Elyria Jefferson Street Incident*

- 430 Jefferson Street 06:38
- 2-Story Large Balloon Frame
- Pronesti was not on it, But Shares Several Lessons Learned
- One of the Things that Separates a Good IC, from 1 Just Wearing a White Shirt, is His Ability to Recover, and Bounce Back from Errors, and Knowing When to Call a Time-Out to Get YOU and Your Troops Back on the Same Page
- Era of the Building and Area They are in

- Old Streets usually have Old Water Lines, Go to the Corners where they might be Newer – Know Your City!
- 1 Problem of Stretching to the Rear of a Big, Old House is Possibly Running out of Hose.
- You MUST Know Where the Fire Will be in 5, 10, 15 Minutes. BASED ON CONSTRUCTION
- Listen to Your Officers!!!

### **Common Error #3 – Not Listening to and Understanding Dispatch Information**

- We Have a Dispatcher at County 911 with a Tongue Ring, You CAN'T Understand a Word She Says, and Some who Talk So Quiet on the Radio I Can't Hear ANYTHING. Get on and Ask for Repeats, and Any Additional Info, Multiple Calls, Etc....
- Joe Plays Dispatch of Muncie, IN LODD Audio, Asks Class if there are Clues that you Hear that Might Indicate a Change in Tactics en-route
  - Dispatched to the Corner of X & Y Street for a Church Fire, You should Probably Know Exactly What Church it is. There aren't that Many!

### **Common Error #4 – No 360**

- We Get into Big Trouble when Exterior “Things” Grabs us & our Attention and prevents us from doing the 360. Pronesti Shares 2 LODD Examples:
  - Colerain Twp., OH
  - Homewood, IL
- Pronesti Plays First Few Minutes of the Fire That Caught him (W. River Rd. Fire)
  - Promised He'll Never Let His Guard Down Again
  - Internal/Political Factors Weighing Very Heavy on EFD
  - Responded with 10 People (2 Engines, 1 Tower, IC)
  - Heavy Fire Conditions in Rear with Known Person Trapped
  - People Trying to Rescue Him, “Grabbed” Pronesti and Prevented From Doing 360
  - Nearly Incinerated 2 of His Firemen

### **Common Error #5 – Survivability Profile**

- Montgomery County, Churubusco Lane Fire (LOOK IT UP!)
  - Deputy Chief on-scene didn't want to Step on the Toes of the Batt. Chief In charge

- If you see Bad Stuff Happening, Speak up!
- Fire Burning for 20+ Minutes, Defensive Operation, Mom comes to Scene and Says Son is Still Inside, Troops Re Enter, and the Building Collapses

### **Common Error #6 – Failure to Apply Science & Tactics or Misunderstanding Them**

- At Least Look at & Try to Understand the Recent Research
- Get INFO out to the Troops, Especially if you're a Leader in your Dept.
- You MUST Help the Young Guys to "Separate the Noise"
- A Wet Couch Does NOT Flash!

### **Common Error #7 – Residential vs. Commercial Tactics**

- A RIT Bag, itself Won't Save a Brother
- Organize your People and Know When to say Shut the F Up on the Radio
- Pronesti Shares Brief Review of Bryan, TX Double LODD
  - They Never Said the Word "Mayday" on the Radio
  - The RIT Didn't have a Line
- Big Lesson Learned for Pronesti was Importance of having a "RIT Line"

### **Common Error #8 – Reading a Building**

- Shows a Video of Large U-Shaped Apartment Fire Running a Common Attic Space. Explains Need to Know Where the Fire will be in 5, 10, 15 Minutes.
- Pronesti Says You can Learn Something from EVERY Fire, Just Pay Attention, Listen to Audio, and Watch Video
- Elyria Put a Cheap Timer in their Command Vehicle

### **Common Error #9 – Delay in Attack or Entry**

- Pronesti References Daryl Gordon LODD (Cincinnati, 2016)
  - 25-30% of Companies had a Acting Officer
  - Lesson Learned: If you're the IC and 20 Minutes its time to Re Evaluate the Fireground. Have Things Gotten Better or Worse, and What Needs to Change?



### **Common Error #10 – Stretching Dry**

- At a Residential Dwelling, you Should Never Enter without Water, Especially the First Line
  
- Pronesti Finishes Off with Showing How Easy it is to Create Training Videos using Windows Movie Maker
  - He will add a Mayday Audio Clip into just a Regular Fire Video. Makes Great Training for ALL MEMBERS!
- Pronesti References a Mayday He was at where a Member Fell Down a Staircase and broke his Leg. Pronesti was C-Sector Chief, and a Lesson he learned was, if a Mayday is called, STAY PUT! Keep Putting Water on the Fire, Stay in Command, ETC... Let Command Run it and Delegate it out....
- Get As Many Command Level Officers onto your Scene as Possible, Lorain County is a Good Example for the Need to Meet up with County Chiefs and Figure out who has Command Officers that can Actually Respond to your Scene.