



In-Station Training

TM 21-37a Residential Fire Mayday



Authors: Chief Ed Hartin

Training Code: TBD

Validated by:

Training Hours: 0.2

Purpose

A mayday occurs whenever a firefighter, officer, or company cannot safely exit the hazard zone. This is likely one of the most challenging events that an incident commander will be faced with. Maydays require effective response at the task, tactical, and strategic level. One level cannot outperform the others.

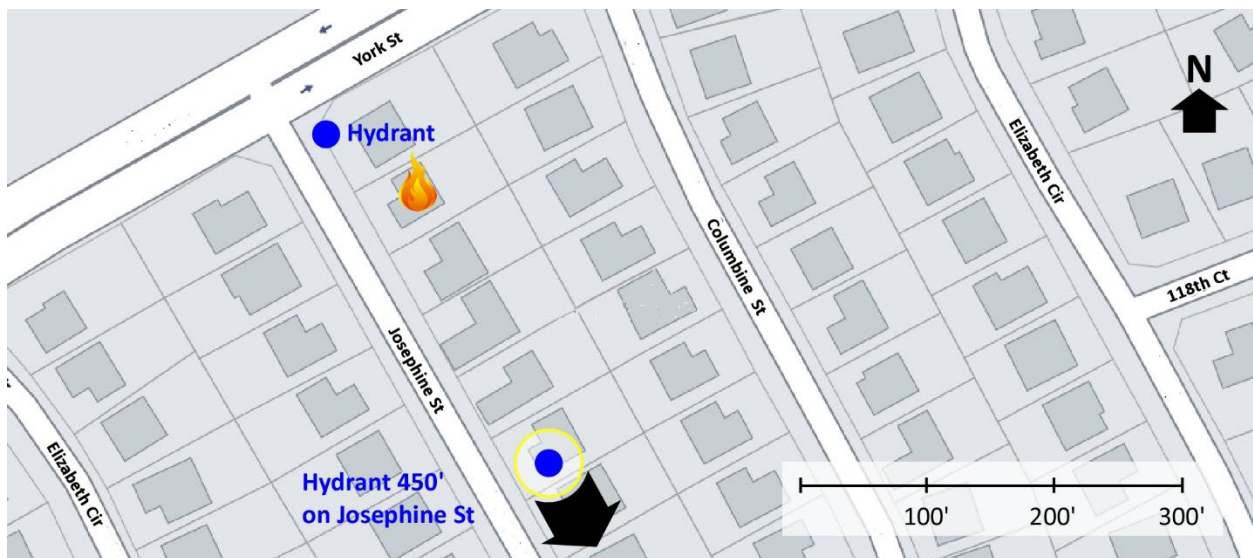
Learning Outcomes

Command officers calmly and effectively manage response to maydays.

Conducting the Drill

This incident involved a residential fire at 11846 Josephine Street in Thornton, Colorado on April 24, 2018, at 11:42 (Thornton Fire Department, 2018). Review the map and photos (Figures 1-5) to gain an understanding of area and building involved.

Figure 1. Map of the Incident Area



Note: Adapted from Google. (2021a). [Google map 11846 Josephine Street, Thornton, CO]

<https://bit.ly/3myMvcl>.

The closest hydrant is just northwest of the main fire occupancy on the corner of Josephine Street and York Street and an additional hydrant to the southeast on Josephine Street as illustrated in Figures 1 & 2.

Figure 2. Aerial View



Note: Adapted from Google. (2021b). [Aerial view 11846 Josephine Street, Thornton, CO]
<https://bit.ly/381noXi>.

Figure 3. Alpha/Bravo Corner on Approach



Note: Note: Adapted from Google. (2012a). [Google street view, 11846 Josephine Street, Thornton, CO]
<https://bit.ly/3801OCv>.

Figure 4. Side Alpha



Note: Adapted from Google. (2012b). [Google street view, 11846 Josephine Street, Thornton, CO]
<https://bit.ly/3ATBw16>.

Figure 5. Alpha/Delta Corner



Note: Adapted from Google. (2012c). [Google street view, 11846 Josephine Street, Thornton, CO]
<https://bit.ly/2W47AAZ>.

The responding command officer would (in most cases) obtain information on Side Charlie and the presence and type of basement (if any) from IC #1's update report. As such views of this area of the building are not provided in this 10-Minute Training for IC #2. These views were provided in 10-Minute Training 21-37 which focused on the role of IC #1.

You have been dispatched to a residential fire at 11846 Josephine Street at 11:42. You are responding to this incident as the first arriving command officer. You are responding from the east on York Street. Temperature is 38° F with a wind out of the north at 16 mph (Weather Underground, 2021). The first arriving engine has a staffing level of three and the second arriving engine has a staffing level of two both of these companies will arrive several minutes before you. A third engine with a staffing level of two will arrive immediately after you. Additional resources have been dispatched on the first alarm and will arrive later in the incident.

1. What critical factors would you consider when dispatched and during response?

As you are responding Engine 1 goes enroute with a crew of three and Engine 2 and 3 each go enroute a short time later with crews of two. Engine 1 provides the following initial radio report:

Engine 1 on-scene of a small two-story house with a working fire, small amount of smoke from the eaves on Side Alpha. Forward lay, stretching an attack line on Side Alpha for fire control, offensive strategy, initiating Josephine Command, dispatch one additional engine.

Engine 1 provides the following update.

360 complete, two stories all sides, window well basement, continuing offensive, Engine 1 will be accountability on Side Alpha.

Engine 2 arrives, advises Josephine Command that they are Level 1 and is given the following assignment. Engine 1 provides an additional update.

Stretch a second attack line off Engine 1, go on deck Side Alpha. We'll be entering through Side Alpha for fire control and primary search.

Examine Figure 6 illustrating conditions when you arrive.

Figure 6. Conditions Side Alpha



Note: Adapted from Thornton Fire Department. (2018). Thornton Fire Department Josephine Fire Mayday 720p [video screen shot]. <https://bit.ly/3ztMieb>

2. What actions will you take prior to contacting IC #1 (Engine 1) to begin command transfer?

3. State your command transfer communication after IC #1 acknowledges your radio contact (exactly as you would transmit it).

Following your request for a conditions, actions, and needs (CAN) report, IC #1 confirms Engine 1 is about to stretch through Side Alpha for fire control and primary search, Engine 2 is on-deck Side Alpha, and provides the following command transfer CAN.

Smoke to the floor, moderate heat, 10-15' visibility, possible basement fire, making entry through Alpha for fire control and primary search in the basement, air status 4500, need a company for primary search and check for extension on Floors 1 and 2.

4. State the communication you would have with IC #1 and ICOM to complete the command transfer (exactly as you would transmit it).

Engine 3 (staffing level of 2) arrives and advises that they are Level 1. You assign them to pull a third attack line off Engine 1 and go on deck, Side Alpha. You assign Engine 2 to stretch through Side Alpha for primary search and check for extension on Floors 1 and 2.

Shortly after you assign Engine 2 to primary search and check for extension, you hear the following radio transmission.

Mayday, Mayday, Mayday, firefighter through the floor right inside the front door.

5. What communications will you have with the individual who transmitted the Mayday? Hint, you do not have all the information necessary to effectively respond to this Mayday. State the message(s) exactly as you would transmit them.

6. What communications will you have with the other company operating inside the building? Hint, you will need to know which company had the Mayday and the assignment of the other company (fire control and primary search or primary search and check for extension), State the communications exactly as you would transmit them.

7. What communications will you have with ICOM? State this communication as you would transmit it.

You receive the following communications from Engine 1:

Josephine Command, Engine 1 with Priority Traffic (after your acknowledgement, Engine 1 makes the following request); we need an attic ladder at the front door.

8. In addition to acknowledging this request, what additional communication would you have with Engine 1 to clarify the conditions and actions related to this stated need.

Additional Learning: Watch [Thornton Fire Department Josephine Fire Mayday](#) (2018). This video provides a concise look at this incident and Fire-Medic Roy Lapid's Mayday. Think about how the actions described in the video were similar to your responses to this 10-Minute Training as well as how they were different.

For a deeper dive into this incident watch the following three video blog posts on Situational Awareness Matters (SAM) by Dr. Rich Gassaway. Dr. Gassaway's conversation with members involved in this mayday incident provide a greater depth of understanding related to how situational awareness impacted this incident and response to the Mayday.

- [Thornton Fire Mayday Story. Part 1](#) (Gassaway, 2019a)
- [Thornton Fire Mayday Story. Part 2](#) (Gassaway, 2019b)
- [Thornton Fire Mayday Story. Part 3](#) (Gassaway, 2019c)

References

- Gassaway, R. (2019a) Thornton Fire Mayday Story. Part 1 (SAM 256). Retrieved August 29, 2021 from <https://bit.ly/2WOlyWv>.
- Gassaway, R. (2019b) Thornton Fire Mayday Story. Part 2 (SAM 257). Retrieved August 29, 2021 from <https://bit.ly/2WOlyWv>.
- Gassaway, R. (2019c) Thornton Fire Mayday Story. Part 3 (SAM 258). Retrieved August 29, 2021 from <https://bit.ly/2WOlyWv>.
- Google. (2012a). [Google street view, 11846 Josephine Street, Thornton, CO] Retrieved August 29, 2021, from <https://bit.ly/3801OCv>.
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- Thornton Fire Department. (2018). Thornton Fire Department Josephine Fire Mayday 720p. Retrieved August 29, 2021, from <https://bit.ly/3ztMieb>.
- Weather Underground (2021). *Denver, CO Weather History* [historical weather April 24, 2021]. Retrieved August 28, 2021, from <https://bit.ly/3kDxDXR>.