



In-Station Training

TM 22-33a Residential Fire Mayday



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Purpose

There is potential for a mayday at any structure fire incident. Effective size-up, risk assessment, and ongoing application of the strategic decision-making model are essential in minimizing the likelihood of a mayday. It may seem that the risk to companies in the hazard zone is diminished once fire control has been achieved, but this is not always the case.

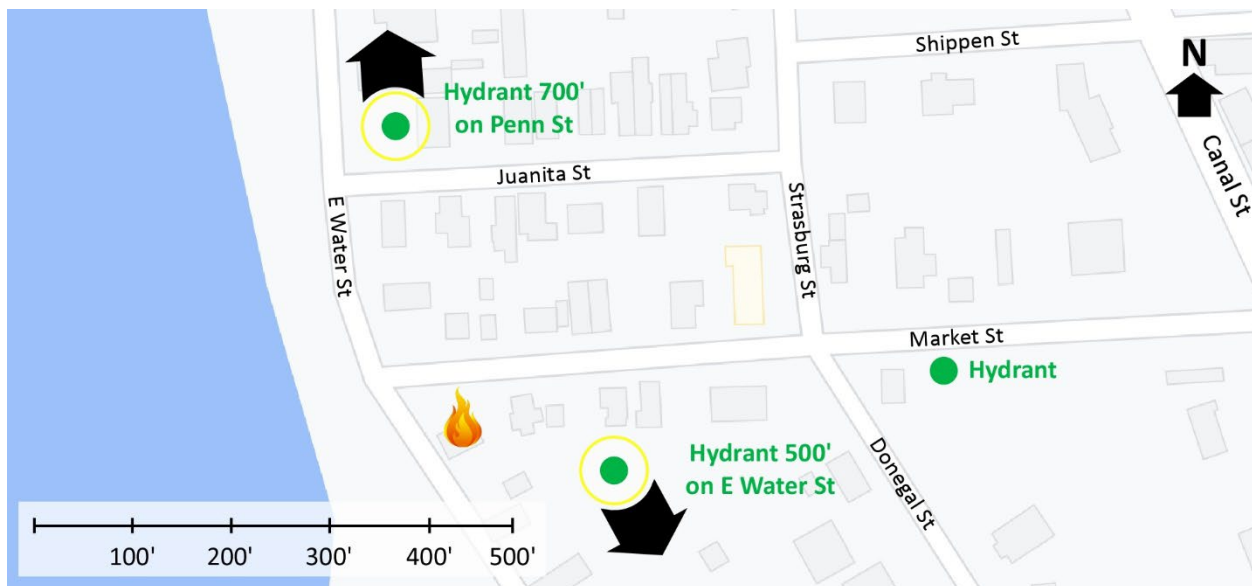
Learning Outcomes

Command officers make effective strategic decisions based on current and projected fire behavior, structural stability, and resources and manage response to maydays effectively.

Conducting the Drill

This incident involved a residential fire at 506 E Water Street in Middletown, Pennsylvania on January 23, 2022, at 21:15 (Pikora, 2022, Goldfeder, 2022, & Pennlive.com, 2022). Review the map and photos (Figures 1-6) to gain an understanding of area and building involved.

Figure 1. Map

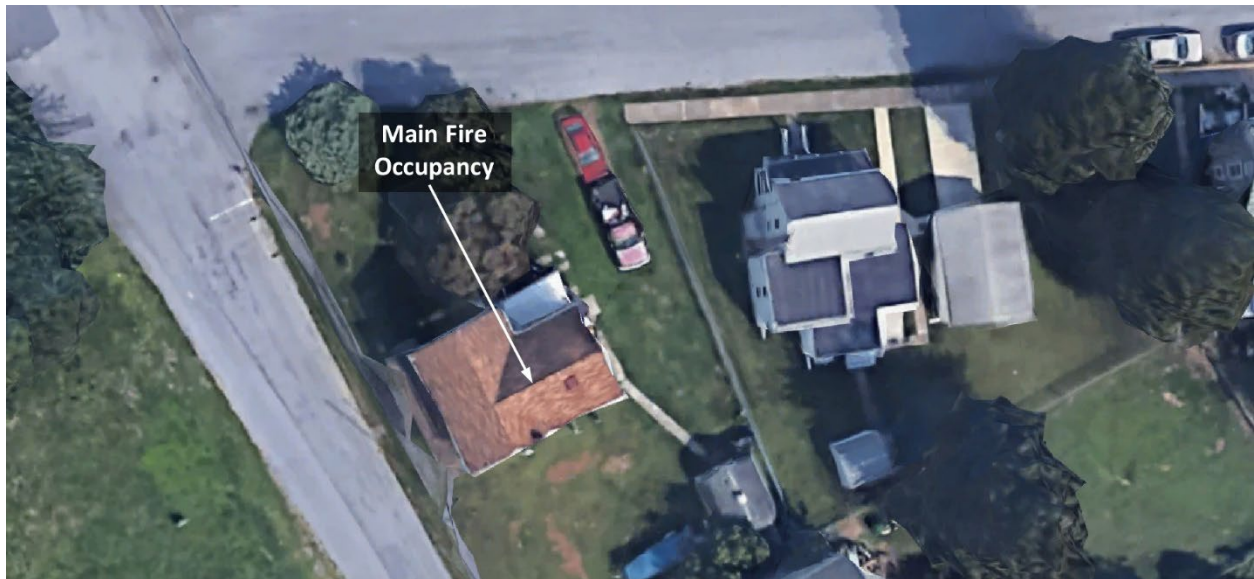


Note: Adapted from Google. (2022a). [Google map 506 E Water Street, Middletown, PA].

<https://bit.ly/32H262k>.

As illustrated in Figure 1 the closest hydrant is at the intersection of Market Street and Donegal Street. Additional hydrants are located to the south of the incident on Market Street and to the north on Penn Street.

Figure 2. Aerial View



Note: Adapted from Google. (2022b). [Aerial view 506 E Water Street, Middletown, PA].
<https://bit.ly/3nZMLRK>.

Figure 3. Bravo/Charlie Corner



Note: Adapted from Google. (2011a). [Google street view, 506 E Water Street, Middletown, PA].
<https://bit.ly/3AC3olk>.

Figure 4. Alpha/Bravo Corner



Note: Adapted from Google. (2011b). [Google street view, 506 E Water Street, Middletown, PA].
<https://bit.ly/34fvsVF>.

Figure 5. Side Alpha



Note: Adapted from Google. (2011c). [Google street view, 506 E Water Street, Middletown, PA].
<https://bit.ly/3rTUi5F>.

Figure 6. Alpha/Delta Corner



Note: Adapted from Google. (2011d). [Google street view, 506 E Water Street, Middletown, PA]. <https://bit.ly/3rVx7YL>.

This 10-Minute Training will be slightly different than usual in that initial arrival video or photos are not available. You will be provided with initial response information and initial actions with questions focused on subsequent and ongoing operations.

You were dispatched to 506 East Water Street for a confirmed residential fire at 21:15. You responded to this incident as the first arriving command officer. Temperature is 31° F with no appreciable wind from the north (Weather Underground, 2022). While responding you hear two engines, an advanced life support (ALS) ambulance, and a second command officer go enroute. Engine 1 has a staffing level of three and Engine 2 has a staffing level of two. Make a note of your staffing assumptions prior to continuing with this 10-Minute Training. **You arrived from the North on east Water Street several minutes before first arriving engine and ALS Ambulance.** The second engine arrived approximately eight minutes after you. Additional resources have been dispatched on the first alarm and will arrive later in the incident.

As you were responding ICOM provided an update stating that they are receiving multiple calls for a fire at the reported address with a disabled male trapped on the first floor.

You provided the following initial radio report:

On-scene of a small two-story house with a working fire on Side Alpha Floors 1 and 2, offensive strategy, initiating Water Command, give me a second alarm with level two staging on Canal Street at Shippen Street.

Exiting your command vehicle, you perform 360° reconnaissance prior to the arrival of additional resources. There is significant involvement of Floors 1 and 2 and the porch on Side Alpha with flames

showing from multiple windows. You observe the service drop for the house down on the Alpha/Bravo corner and across Market Street.

360 complete, two stories all sides, look out basement, continuing offensive. Power lines down across Market Street. All first alarm companies access via Water Street.

Engine 1 arrives and advises that they are performing a forward lay from the hydrant on Penn Street at Water Street. You assign them to stretch an attack line through Side Alpha for fire control and primary search, advising them of the report of a disabled occupant on Floor 1. As you provide Engine 1 with their tactical assignment, you hear a third engine and water tender go enroute each with two-person staffing.

As Engine 1 arrives and places their line into operation, a majority of the porch roof collapses from Side Bravo well past the access door on Side Alpha. Engine 1 knocks down the exterior fire on Side Alpha and moving the collapsed porch roof out of the way, advances their line into Floor 1 operating with good effect. However, there is still significant involvement on Floor 2 Side Alpha.

Engine 2 arrives and advises that they are Level 1 at Water Street and Penn Street.

1. State the tactical assignment you would give Engine 2 exactly as you would transmit it?

Engine 1 transmits the following priority traffic message:

Interior stairs to Floor 2 have been compromised, knockdown on Floor 1, completing primary on Floor 1, need a company to access Floor 2 over a ladder for fire control and primary search.

2. How would you acknowledge this priority traffic radio message and what action would you take based on Engine 1's needs. State your response as you would transmit it to Engine 1.

Engine 3 arrives and advises that they are Level 1 on Water Street at Penn Street.

3. What tactical assignment would you give Engine 3? State this assignment exactly as you would transmit it.

4. Would you change Engine 2's current assignment? If so, state the tactical order exactly as you would transmit it.

In addition to flames from the windows on Floor 2, Side Alpha, you also observe smoke pushing from the eaves on Sides Bravo and Delta and observe flames from the eaves on the Alpha/Delta corner of the building. Tender 2 and Chief 2 arrived and advised that they are Level 1 at Water Street and Penn Street.

5. State the tactical assignment you would give Chief 2 exactly as you would transmit it.

6. State the tactical assignment you would give Tender 1 exactly as you would transmit it.

The following questions assume that you remained offensive and assigned a company to stretch and attack over portable ladder for fire control and primary search on Floor 2. The company assigned this tactic deployed a portable ladder to the balcony on Side Bravo at the Bravo/Charlie corner, stretched an attack line, and quickly achieved knockdown. Engine 4 arrived, and you have begun to rotate on-deck and working companies to maintain continuous operations. Second alarm companies arrive in level two staging. You have moved Engine 5 (second alarm company) to on-deck on Side Bravo.

Companies operating on the interior (one on Floor 1 and one on Floor 2). Companies are on-deck on Sides Alpha and Bravo. Incident organization is as you have specified in earlier questions in this 10-Minute Training. The engine on Floor 1 reports that they have located a deceased occupant on Floor 1 in the Alpha/Bravo corner. The engine on Floor 2 reports that they have an all clear on Floor 2. You have just received radio reports of fire control on Floors 1 and 2 and have transmitted the fire control benchmark to ICOM.

Figure 7. Conditions after Fire Control



Note: Adapted from Merriman, K. [Tweet]. <https://bit.ly/3zTn6PN>.

7. Would you maintain an offensive strategy after receiving reports regarding the reported occupant and all clear on Floor 1? Why or why not?

8. How would you adjust tactical operations at this point in the incident?

You observe a partial structural collapse of the interior on the Alpha/Delta Corner from the second floor to the first. Companies on Floors 1 and 2 do not immediately respond to attempts to contact them by radio.

9. What action would you take to address the Mayday? List the sequence of action order.

Additional Learning: Listen to the [mayday audio](#) (Saratoga county fire wire scfw518, 2022) from this incident (audio starts shortly before the mayday). Based on analysis of earlier incident audio (Broadcastify, 2022a), it appears that working company officers were assigned as division supervisors and a command officer was assigned as operations. Interaction between the division supervisors was divided between operations and the incident commander throughout the incident.

Review Central Whidbey Island Fire & Rescue (CWIFR) *Standard Operating Guideline 4.3.5 Rapid Intervention and Firefighter Rescue* (2022). Consider how incident communications and organization impacted accountability and ability of the incident commander, tactical supervisors, and company officer to manage response to this mayday.

If you really want to dig into this incident, here are links to the real-time audio for the entire incident (divided into three segments). This audio feed includes Linglestown, County Fire Dispatch, Fire Ops 3 through 9, Lower Paxton Fire, and Public Safety 1. Early in the incident there are concurrent incident operations for a chimney fire. The incident starts at 28:00 of elapsed time in Segment 1. Each segment has a slight overlap from the previous segment.

1. [Middletown Water Street Mayday Incident Audio 12:56 to 01:26](#)
2. [Middletown Water Street Mayday Incident Audio 01:26 to 01:56](#)
3. [Middletown Water Street Mayday Incident Audio 01:56 to 02:26](#)

This incident occurred on January 23, 2022, and Firefighter Shawn Menear was trapped under the chimney, receiving second and third-degree burns. He was transported to the burn unit at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania where he received surgery for muscle damage to his leg and skin grafts to repair his burn injuries (Wise, 2022). Firefighter Menear was released from the hospital to return home in early April 2022 (Gleiter, 2022).

References

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Wise, J. (2022). *Firefighter suffered third-degree burns in Dauphin County house collapse, remains hospitalized*. Retrieved August 13, 2022, from <https://bit.ly/3JQWjZ9>.