Whidbey Island Command Training Center

In-Station Training

TM 22-46 Residential Fire Mayday

10 Minute Training

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Purpose

Residential fires are often considered routine incidents, until they aren't... Effective structure fire response anticipates the potential for circumstances under which a firefighter may not be able to safely exit the hazard zone, resulting in a mayday. A mayday requires appropriate reaction and response by firefighters and officers in the hazard zone, those outside the hazard zone, and the incident commander. This 10-Minute Training provides an opportunity to exercise some of the critical skills.

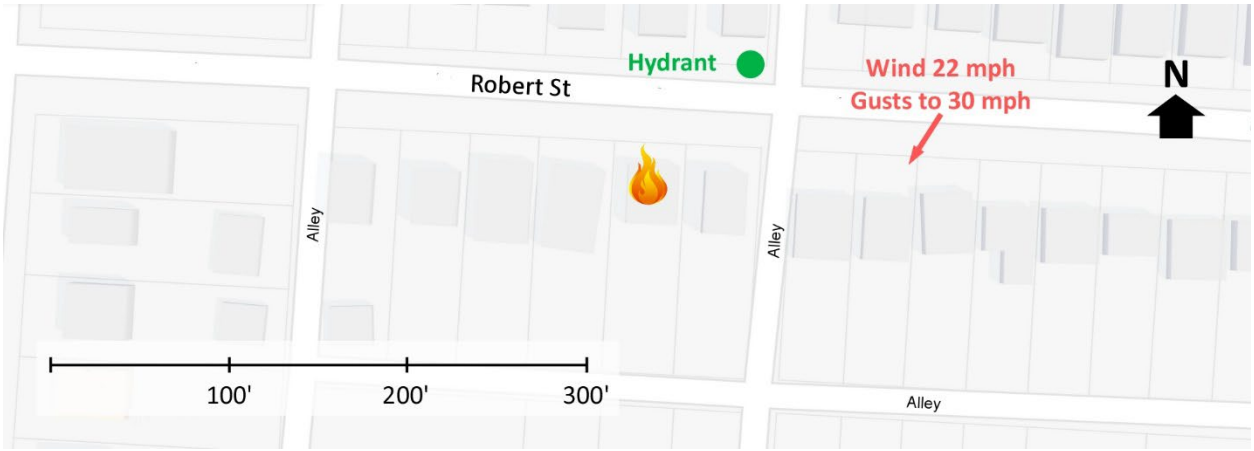
Learning Outcomes

Firefighters and officers perform an effective size-up; select an appropriate strategy, and implement tactics based on the strategic decision-making model and respond effectively to a mayday during firefighting operations.

Conducting the Drill

This incident involved a residential fire at 1831 Robert Street, Columbus, Ohio on February 6, 2010, at approximately 22:55 (CFD Training, n.d., Columbus Dispatch, 2010, Hasenmeier, 2012). Review the map and photos (Figures 1-6) to gain an understanding of area and building involved.

Figure 1. Map of the Incident Area



Note: Adapted from Google. (2022a). [Google map 41831 Robert Street, Columbus, OH]. http://bit.ly/2TBdmU7.

The closest hydrant is north of the incident location on Robert Street just east of the incident as illustrated in Figure 1.

Figure 2. Aerial View

Note: Adapted from Google. (2022b). [Aerial view 1831 Robert Street, Columbus, OH]. http://bit.ly/2GuMl0I.

Figure 3. Alpha/Delta Corner

Note: Adapted from Google. (2019a). [Street view 1831 Robert Street, Columbus, OH]. https://bit.ly/3rTJCEu.

Figure 4. Side Alpha

Note: Adapted from Google. (2019b). [Street view 1831 Robert Street, Columbus, OH]. https://bit.ly/3S3EuZ4.

Figure 5. Alpha/Bravo Corner

Note: Adapted from Google. (2019c). [Street view 1831 Robert Street, Columbus, OH]. https://bit.ly/3yBqtLx

Figure 6. Side Charlie

Note: Adapted from Google. (2015). [Street view 1831 Robert Street, Columbus, OH]. http://bit.ly/2BpjUhz.

You have been dispatched to 1831 Robert Street for a confirmed residential fire at 22:55. You are the company officer or AIC of the first arriving engine and have your company's typical staffing. Temperature is 26° F with wind from the north northeast at 22 mph with gusts to 30 mph (Weather Underground, 2010). As you go enroute, ICOM advises that they are receiving multiple calls.

1. What critical factors would you consider when dispatched and during response and what conversations would you have with your crew while responding?

While responding you hear a command officer and an engine, with typical staffing for your agency go enroute. An advanced life support (ALS) ambulance with a staffing level of two is also responding. You estimate that the ALS ambulance will arrive shortly after you. The second engine will arrive approximately six minutes after you followed by the command officer. All other units dispatched on the first alarm will arrive after the command officer. You are arriving from the west on Robert Street.

There is no pre-arrival video or photos for this incident. Incident conditions were simulated using Digital Combustion Fire Studio 6.0 based on narrative descriptions provided by responding units. Examine Figure 7 illustrating simulated conditions on arrival.

Figure 7. Conditions on Arrival

Note: Digital Combustion Fire Studio 6.0 Simulation of the 1831 Robert Street incident. Note that this simulation uses a daytime photo while the incident occurred at night.

2. State your initial radio report (IRR) exactly as you would transmit it to ICOM.

3. What specific actions would you take (as the company officer) immediately upon arrival and exiting the apparatus and what task orders you would give your crew?

Occupants of the house report that everyone was out and that they thought the fire was in the basement. Conditions on Side Bravo are consistent with those observed on Side Delta. Conditions on Side Charlie are as observed in Figure 8.

Figure 8. Conditions on Side Charlie

Note: Digital Combustion Fire Studio 6.0 Simulation of the 1831 Robert Street incident. Note that this simulation uses a daytime photo while the incident occurred at night.

4. Would you change the action you are taking or modify the assignments given to your crew? If so, what task orders would you provide?

5. State your update report exactly as you would transmit it to ICOM.

If you chose initial application of water from the exterior on Side Charlie, visible flames are knocked down, but smoke continues to push from the basement and first floor with substantial velocity and volume.

6. State the tactical assignment you would give the next arriving engine exactly as you would transmit it.

7. State your conditions, actions, and needs (CAN) report that would you provide to the first arriving command officer as part of command transfer to IC #2?

The next several questions are based on the following conditions. You have advanced your line to the basement for fire control and primary search, knocked the fire down, searched the basement, checked for extension and finding none have reported all clear in the basement and fire under control. A second company (crew of two) completed fire control and primary search on Floor 1 and moved to the basement to assist you with overhaul but needing no assistance they are exiting up the stairs to the first floor. Smoke conditions in the basement are moderate with the smoke layer approximately three feet above the floor with five-foot visibility.

8. You hear a crash and observe a member of your crew on the floor. They do not respond when you call out to them. What action to you take?

9. State the communication you would have with Robert Command exactly as you would transmit it.

Examine Figures 9 and 10 illustrating the configuration of the basement and stairwell before answering the next question.

Figure 9. Downed Firefighters Location

Note: Adapted from CFD Training. (n.d.) Polaski Basement Rescue Columbus. https://bit.ly/3DPX7Mj.

Figure 10. Stairway Configuration

Note: Adapted from CFD Training. (n.d.) Polaski Basement Rescue Columbus. https://bit.ly/3DPX7Mj.

10. Command as assigned the second engine company that had been working on Floor 1 to assist you. How would you approach getting the downed firefighter up the stairs.

Additional Learning: Watch *Polaski Basement Rescue Columbus* (CFD Training, n.d.) and consider the lessons learned from this incident and how you can implement these lessons with the members of your crew. Watch *Miami-Dade (FL) Fire Rescue: Firefighter Down CPR* (Fire Engineering, n.d.) then get out and practice this skill with your crew.

References

CFD Training. (n.d.) Polaski Basement Rescue Columbus. Retrieved November 1, 2022, from https://bit.ly/3DPX7Mj.

Columbus Dispatch. (2010). Firefighter grateful for colleagues who saved his life. Retrieved November 1, 2022, from https://bit.ly/3rWbpEw

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Weather Underground (2010). *Columbus, OH Weather History* [historical weather February 6, 2010]. Retrieved November 2, 2022, from https://bit.ly/3SW98Es.