

Author

Chief Ed Hartin

Purpose

Within the context of Blue Card incident management, critical fireground factors and the rules of engagement drive strategy and tactics. Some disciplines, such as marine rescue, and wilderness search and rescue use the colors green, amber, red (GAR) to communicate risk levels. This is like the three levels of risk in the Blue Card risk management plan. In some circumstances, the choice of offensive or defensive strategy is obvious (green or red). However, this decision may be more difficult when fire conditions and structural stability may permit interior operations, but civilian life hazard is unlikely (think commercial occupancy that is closed), or the IC has an all clear on primary search (yellow).

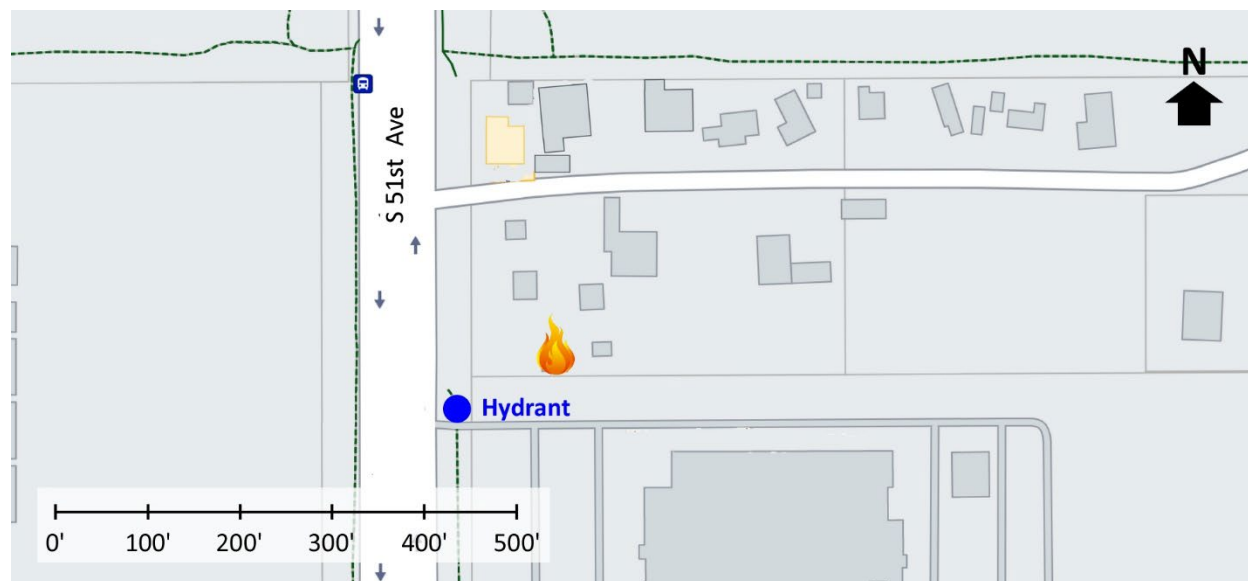
Learning Outcomes

Firefighters and officers perform an effective size-up; select an appropriate strategy, and implement tactics based on the strategic decision-making model.

Conducting the Drill

This incident involved a residential fire in a mobile home at 7165 South 51st Avenue in Phoenix, Arizona on February 11, 2023, at 03:30 (On Scene TV, 2023). 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. (2023a). [map 7165 South 51st Avenue, Phoenix, AZ]. <http://bit.ly/3leUiWa>.

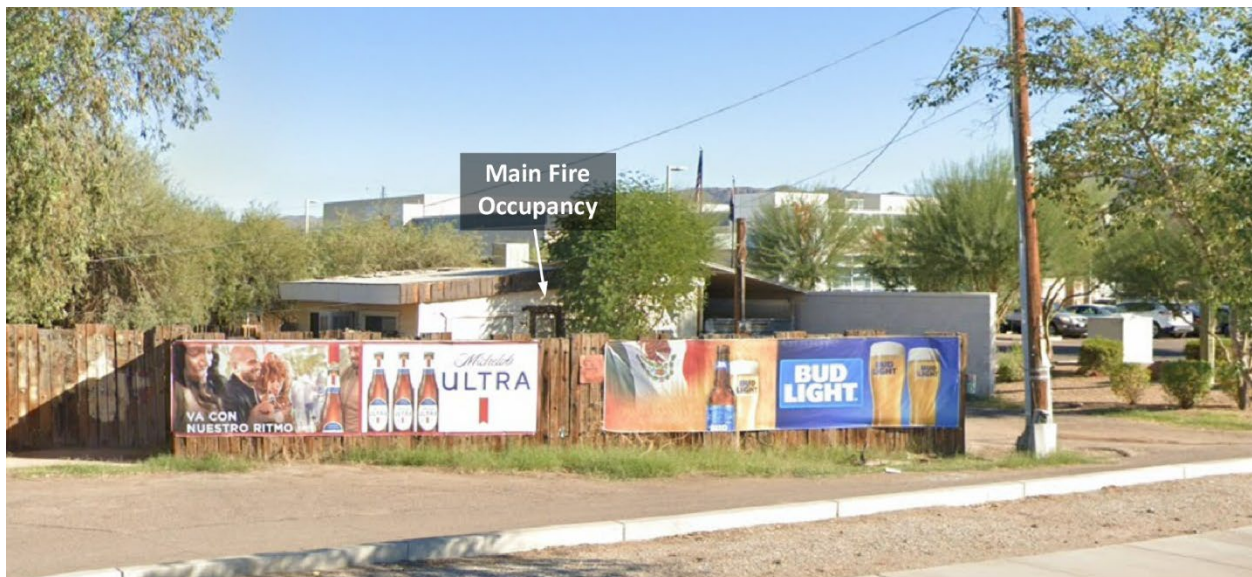
The closest hydrant is located on South 51st Avenue adjacent to the main fire occupancy as illustrated in Figures 1 and 2.

Figure 2. Aerial View



Note: Adapted from Google. (2023b). [aerial view 7165 South 51st Avenue, Phoenix, AZ].
<http://bit.ly/3XVv05f>.

Figure 3. Alpha/Bravo Corner



Note: Adapted from Google. (2021a). [street view 7165 South 51st Avenue, Phoenix, AZ].
<http://bit.ly/3ZfyU9Y>.

Figure 4. Side Alpha



Note: Adapted from Google. (2021b). [street view 7165 South 51st Avenue, Phoenix, AZ].
<http://bit.ly/3ZhlH0d>.

Figure 5. Alpha/Delta Corner



Note: Adapted from Google. (2021c). [street view 7165 South 51st Avenue, Phoenix, AZ].
<http://bit.ly/3XMZ3Ms>.

Figure 6. Bravo/Charlie Corner



Note: Adapted from Google. (2023c). [3d aerial view 7165 South 51st Avenue, Phoenix, AZ].
<http://bit.ly/3xM1d4e>.

You have been dispatched to 7165 South 51st Avenue for a residential fire. You are the company officer or AIC of the first arriving engine and have your company's typical staffing. Temperature is 56° F with wind at 5 mph from the east (Weather Underground, 2023).

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, an engine and advanced life support ambulance with typical staffing for your agency go enroute. The second engine will arrive approximately six minutes after you, followed by the command officer. The ALS ambulance will arrive approximately eight minutes after you. All other units dispatched on the first alarm will arrive after the command officer. You are arriving from the north on South 51st Avenue.

Watch the [incident video](#) (On Scene TV, 2023) from 00:05 to 00:15 and examine Figure7 illustrating conditions on arrival.

Figure 7. Conditions on Arrival



Note: Adapted from On Scene TV (2023). (Pre-arrival) firefighters battle fully engulfed mobile home fire | Phoenix [video]. <https://bit.ly/3So2vvV>.

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

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?

Watch the [incident video](#) (On Scene TV, 2023) from 00:20 to 00:40 and examine Figure 8 which illustrates fire conditions observed from Side Delta. Conditions on Sides Bravo and Charlie are consistent with those observed from Side Alpha with substantial fire involvement of the entire mobile home and its additions.

Figure 8. Fire Conditions from Side Delta



Note: Adapted from On Scene TV (2023). (Pre-arrival) firefighters battle fully engulfed mobile home fire | Phoenix [video]. <https://bit.ly/3So2vvV>.

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 dispatch.
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 you would provide to the first arriving command officer as part of command transfer to IC #2?

Watch the [incident video](#) (On Scene TV, 2023) from 01:26 to 02:26 before answering the next several questions.

8. Based on observation of incident operations, were the companies at this incident operating in an offensive or defensive strategy? Did this change as the incident progressed?

9. Were the operations observed in this incident consistent with the rules of engagement and risk management plan? Why or why not?

Additional Learning: The International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) adopted the rules of engagement for firefighter survival and incident commander's rules of engagement for firefighter safety in 2010 (IAFC, 2012 & IAFC, ND). These rules are intended to guide individual firefighters and incident commanders regarding risk analysis and safety decision making when operating on the fireground (Morris, 2020). East County Fire and Rescue (ECFR) adopted the rules of engagement by policy in 2018 and established *Standard Operating Guideline 314 Rules of Engagement for Structural Firefighting* (ECFR, 2018).

Review existing policy and guidelines related to rules of engagement and engage your crew in a discussion of the draft working document focused on updating and clarifying ECFR's rules of engagement.

References

- East County fire and Rescue (ECFR). (2018). Policy 30.1.2 Rules of Engagement for Structural Firefighting. Camas, WA: Author.
- East County fire and Rescue (ECFR). (2018). Standard Operating Guideline (SOG) 314 Rules of Engagement for Structural Firefighting. Camas, WA: Author.
- Google. (2021a). [street view 7165 South 51st Avenue, Phoenix, AZ]. Retrieved February 24, 2023, from <http://bit.ly/3ZfyU9Y>.
- Google. (2021b). [street view 7165 South 51st Avenue, Phoenix, AZ]. Retrieved February 24, 2023, from <http://bit.ly/3ZhlHOD>.
- Google. (2021c). [street view 7165 South 51st Avenue, Phoenix, AZ]. Retrieved February 24, 2023, from <http://bit.ly/3XMZ3Ms>.
- Google. (2023a). [map 7165 South 51st Avenue, Phoenix, AZ]. Retrieved February 24, 2023, from <http://bit.ly/3leUiWa>.

Google. (2023b). [aerial view 7165 South 51st Avenue, Phoenix, AZ]. Retrieved February 24, 2023, from <http://bit.ly/3XVv05f>.

Google. (2023c). [3d aerial view 7165 South 51st Avenue, Phoenix, AZ]. Retrieved February 24, 2023, from <http://bit.ly/3xM1d4e>.

International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC). (2012). Rules of engagement for structural firefighting: increasing firefighter survival. Retrieved March 1, 2023, from <https://bit.ly/3lDori4>.

International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC). (n.d.) Rules of engagement for firefighter survival and the incident commander's rules of engagement for firefighter safety. Retrieved March 1, 2023, from <http://bit.ly/3EI4YeY>.

Morris, G. (2020). A decade of rules of engagement for firefighter survival. Retrieved February 27, 2023, from <http://bit.ly/3Z2qxPu>.

On Scene TV (2023). (Pre-Arrival) Firefighters Battle Fully Engulfed Mobile Home Fire | Phoenix. Retrieved February 24, 2023, from <https://bit.ly/3So2vvV>.

Weather Underground (2023). Phoenix, AZ [historical weather February 11, 2023]. Retrieved February 24, 2023, from <http://bit.ly/3KA2W4l>.