



In-Station Training

TM 23-19 Commercial Fire



Author

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Purpose

Void space fires present a significant challenge, requiring knowledge of fire behavior and building construction as well as vigorous application of effective tactics to achieve fire control. This type of incident often requires extensive overhaul to ensure complete extinguishment of the fire.

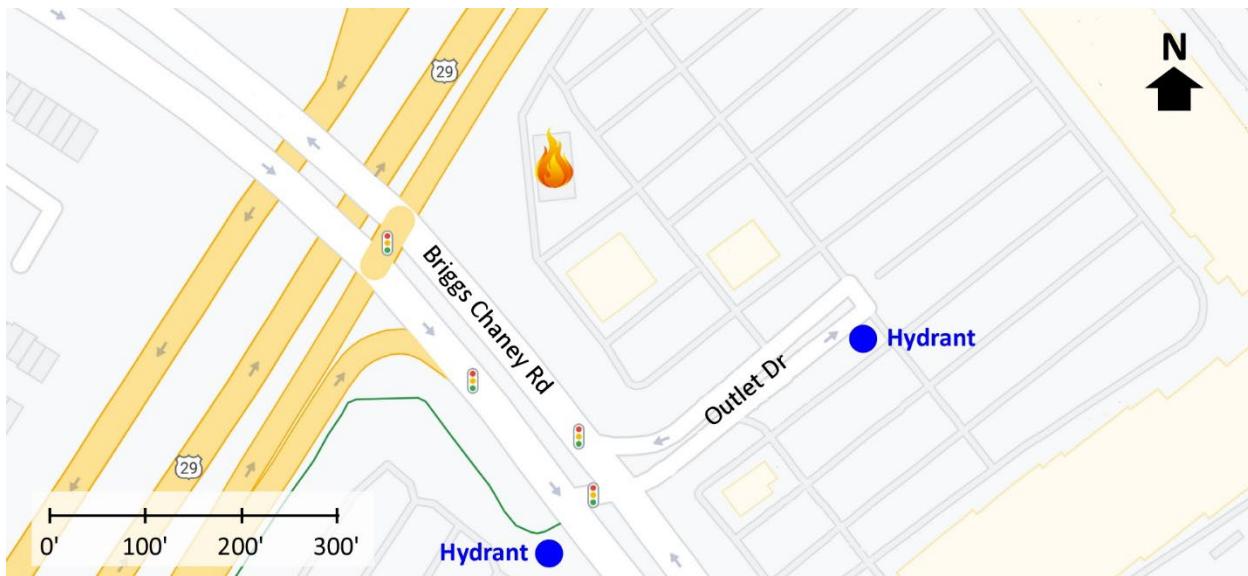
Learning Outcomes

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 fire at Bank of America, 13808 Outlet Drive in Burtonsville, Maryland on December 1, 2018, at 18:04 (Greg' Fire Photography, 2018, Piringer, 2018). 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, 13808 Outlet Drive, Burtonsville, MD].

<https://bit.ly/3Aicw5z>.

The closest hydrant is located on Outlet Drive to the east southeast of the incident and a second hydrant is located outside the complex on Briggs Chaney Road as illustrated in Figure 1.

Figure 2. Aerial View



Note: Adapted from Google. (2023b). [aerial view, 13808 Outlet Drive, Burtonsville, MD].
<https://bit.ly/3UZyEuX>.

Figure 3. Side Alpha



Note: Adapted from Google. (2021a). [street view, 13808 Outlet Drive, Burtonsville, MD].
<https://bit.ly/3LjiF7I>.

Figure 4. Side Delta



Note: Adapted from Google. (2021b). [street view, 13808 Outlet Drive, Burtonsville, MD].

<https://bit.ly/41PzxIC>.

Figure 5. Side Bravo



Note: Adapted from Google. (2021c). [street view, 13808 Outlet Drive, Burtonsville, MD].

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

Figure 6. Charlie/Delta Corner



Note: Adapted from Google. (2021d). [3d aerial view, 13808 Outlet Drive, Burtonsville, MD].

<https://bit.ly/3An70i1>.

You have been dispatched to Bank of America, 13808 Outlet Drive for a commercial fire. You are the company officer or AIC of the first arriving engine and have your company's typical staffing. Temperature is 41° F with wind at 6 mph from the east northeast (Weather Underground, 2018).

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 and ALS ambulance will arrive approximately four 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 southeast on Briggs Chaney Road.

Watch the [incident video](#) (Greg' Fire Photography, 2018) from 00:45 to 01:15 and examine Figure 7 illustrating conditions on arrival.

Figure 7. Conditions on Arrival



Note: Adapted from Greg' Fire Photography. (2018). Pre-arrival building fire-Bank of America-Burtonsville, MD 12-1-18. <https://bit.ly/41uN8pl>.

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?

The bank is closed (no staff or customers present). Conditions on Sides Charlie and Delta are consistent with those observed from Sides Alpha and Bravo with a small volume of smoke issuing at low velocity from the edge of the roof on the Bravo/Charlie Corner. No smoke is visible from the area of the building towards Side Delta.

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. Based on the anticipated effectiveness of your tactical operations, 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](#) (Greg' Fire Photography, 2018) from 02:05 to 04:05 before answering the next several questions.

8. The first arriving engine stretched an attack line for an eave attack through the soffit and facia. Was this tactic effective? What factors would influence distribution of water in the trussloft when making a ground level exterior attack through soffit and facia?
9. If your company was assigned to primary search and check for extension in the bank, how would you have gone about checking for extension in the trussloft? Think specifically about what tools your company would need, where you would open the ceiling, and in what sequence this work would be performed.

Additional Learning: Have another look at Figure 6, review [Metal Building Roofs](#) (Newman, n.d.), watch [How to Install Standing Seam Metal Roofing](#) (HeirloomBuilders, 2020), and examine Figures 8 and 9 which illustrates conditions post knockdown. Engage with your crew in a discussion of the building construction features that may impact fire control tactics and overhaul operations in this type of building.

Figure 8. Exterior Post Knockdown



Note: Adapted from Piringer, P. (2018). Update - Burtonsville Bank of America, Outlet Dr, sign/attic fire, fire under control. <https://bit.ly/3mPg7Fi>.

Figure 9. Interior Post Knockdown



Note: Adapted from Piringer, P. (2018). Update - Burtonsville Bank of America, Outlet Dr, sign/attic fire, fire under control. <https://bit.ly/3mPg7Fi>.

References

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