



In-Station Training

TM 23-22a Residential Fire Mayday



Author

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Purpose

It is every individual firefighter's responsibility to always maintain a high level of mayday readiness. This includes everyday preparation and prevention as well as the practiced ability to communicate and respond to a mayday (PFD, 2014). Mayday readiness is essential at the task, tactical, and strategic levels. Not only must firefighters be mayday ready, so must incident commanders!

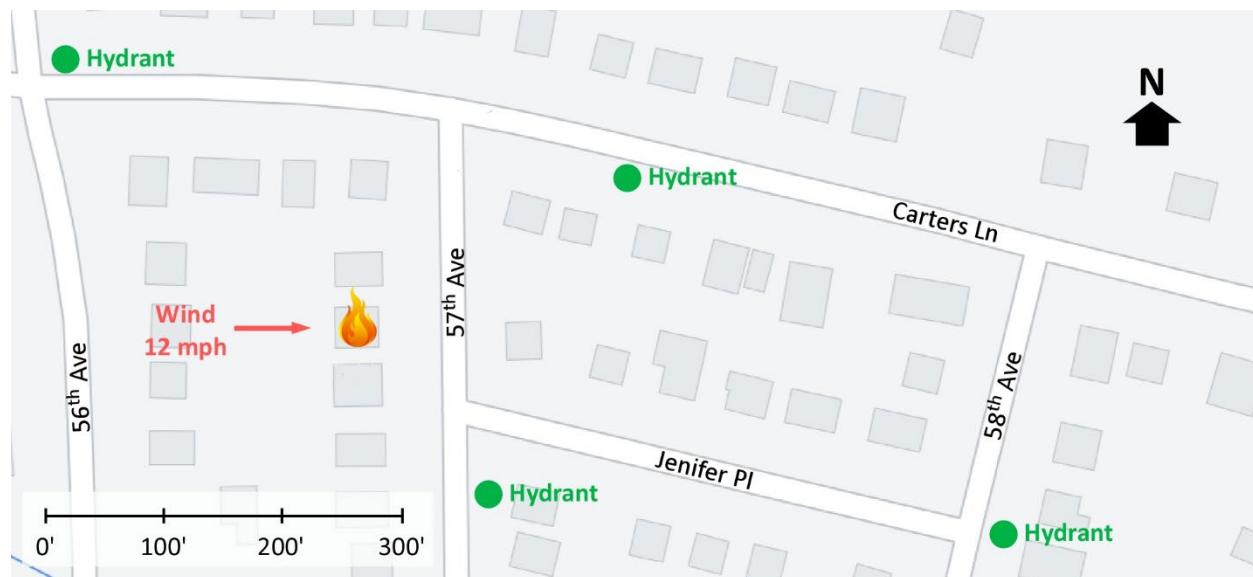
Learning Outcomes

Command officers perform effective ongoing size-up; select an appropriate strategy, implement tactics based on the strategic decision-making model, and be ready to respond to a mayday.

Conducting the Drill

This incident involved a residential fire at 5222 57th Avenue in Riverdale, Maryland on February 7, 2021, at 14:47 (Firehouse, 2021; Boykin, 2023; & PGFD, 2021). *This 10-Minute Training is based on this incident but does not necessarily represent events as they occurred (no pre-arrival video or detail on tactical operations is available).* Review the map and photos (Figures 1-4) to gain an understanding of area and building involved.

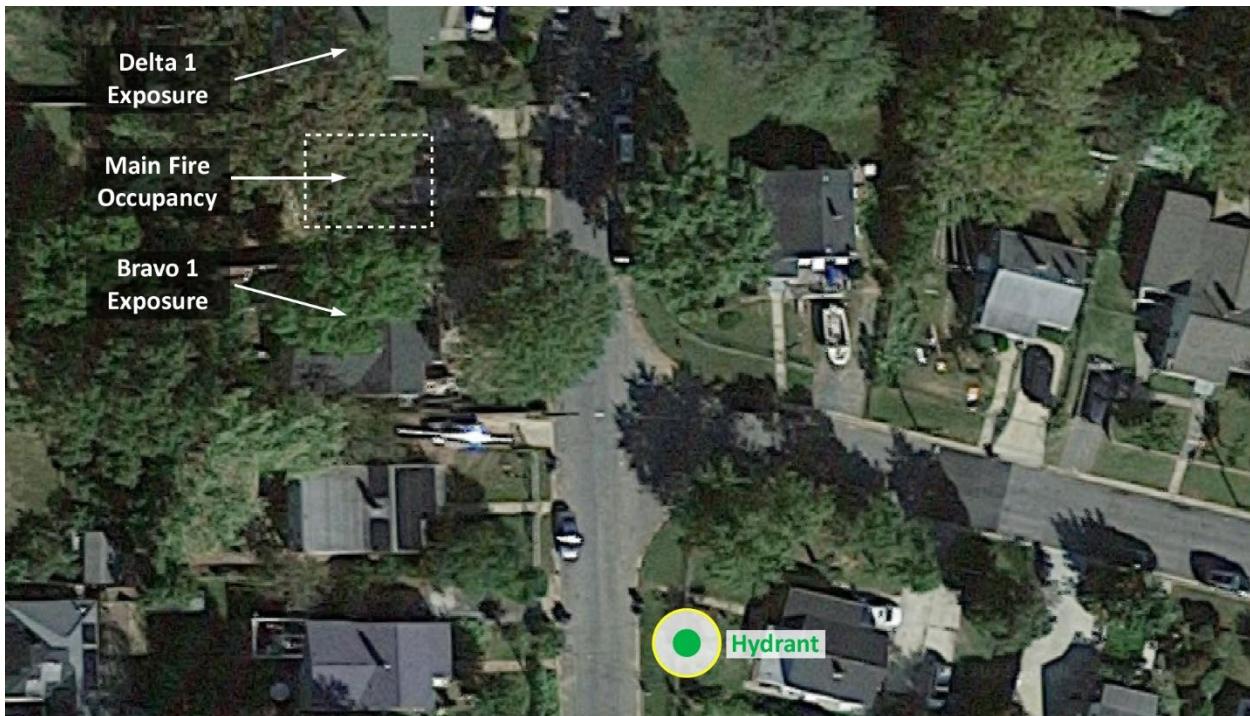
Figure 1. Map of the Incident Area



Note: Adapted from Google. (2023a). [map, 5222 57th Avenue, Riverdale, MD]. <https://bit.ly/41ZaPW5>.

The closest hydrant is just south of the incident location at 57th Ave and Jenifer Place. Additional hydrants are available in the area as illustrated in Figure 1.

Figure 2. Aerial View



Note: Adapted from Google. (2023b). [aerial view 5222 57th Avenue, Riverdale, MD]. <https://bit.ly/3om2Swo>.

Figure 3. Alpha/Delta Corner



Note: Adapted Google. (2012a). [Street view 5222 57th Avenue, Riverdale, MD] <https://bit.ly/3MMcJVN>.

Figure 4. Side Alpha



Note: Adapted Google. (2012b). [Street view 5222 57th Avenue, Riverdale, MD] <https://bit.ly/3OtB5EM>.

You were dispatched to 5222 57th Avenue for a residential fire at 14:47. You are responding to this incident as the first arriving command officer. Temperature is 41° F with wind from the west at 12 mph (Weather Underground, 2023). While responding you hear four engines, an advanced life support (ALS) ambulance, and a second command officer go enroute. The engines have staffing typical of your agency. The first engine will arrive from the south on 57th Avenue. The second engine and ALS ambulance will arrive from north on 57th Avenue approximately five minutes after the first engine. Make a note of your staffing assumptions prior to continuing with this 10-Minute Training. **You will arrive from the east on Jenifer Place after the second engine and ALS ambulance.** Any additional resources that have been dispatched (based on your response plan) will arrive later in the incident.

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

As you were responding Engine 1 provided the following initial radio report:

On-scene of a small one story, house with a working fire with flames from Alpha and Delta, stretching an attack line on Side Alpha for fire control, on a hydrant, in the offensive strategy, initiating 57th Command, continue the alarm.

A short time later, 57th Command provides the following update.

No 360 due to obstructions on Side Bravo, one story all sides, walk up basement on Side Delta, continuing offensive, continue the alarm.

Engine 2 arrives and advises 57th Command they are Level 1. 57th Command provides the following orders to Engine 2 and Ambulance 1.

Park out of the way, stretch an attack line off Engine 1 through Side Alpha for fire control and primary search.

Ambulance 1, integrate with Engine 1, on-deck Side Alpha.

Examine Figure 5 illustrating conditions on your arrival.

Figure 5. Conditions on Arrival of Chief 1



Note: Fire Studio 6.0 simulation, Google. (2012a). [street view 5222 57th Avenue, Riverdale, MD]
<https://bit.ly/3MMcJVN>.

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 confirmation of the location and assignment of Engines 1 and 2 and request for a conditions, actions, and needs (CAN) report, IC #1 provides the following CAN:

Engine 1 knocked the fire down from Side Alpha, Ambulance 1 has integrated with Engine 1 and Engine 2 is through Side Alpha for fire control and primary search.

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

As you complete transfer of command, you observe the change in conditions illustrated in Figure 6.

Figure 6. Changing Conditions



Note: Fire Studio 6.0 simulation adapted Google. (2012a). [street view 5222 57th Avenue, Riverdale, MD] <https://bit.ly/3MMcJVN>.

5. How would this change in conditions influence your strategy and tactical assignments? State the communication you would have with operating companies and if necessary, with dispatch.

Within 30 seconds of the initial change in conditions, you observe a further change in conditions as illustrated in Figure 7 and hear the following radio transmission:

Mayday, Mayday, Mayday, Engine 2, burning up...trying to get out.

Figure 7. Changing Conditions



6. What action will you take based on the mayday message? State any radio communication that you would have with Engine 1, Engine 2 and dispatch exactly as you would transmit them.

7. Engine 3 arrives and reports that they are Level 1 on Carters Lane. State the tactical assignment you would provide Engine 3 exactly as you would transmit it.

Engine 1 assists Engine 2 in exiting the structure and reports that they and Engine 2 have PAR and that two members of Engine 2 have burns and requests two additional ALS Ambulances.

8. State the radio communications you will have with dispatch exactly as you would transmit them.

9. Chief 2 arrives and advises that they are Level 1 at 58th Avenue and Jenifer Place. State the tactical assignment you would provide Chief 2 exactly as you would transmit it.

Additional Learning: In 2012, seven Prince George's County firefighters were injured battling a house fire, also on 57th Avenue, just a mile away. Read Close Calls: Firefighters Trapped at Maryland House Fire [Part 1](#), [Part 2](#), and [Part 3](#) (Goldfedder, 2013). Listen to the [interview with Kevin O'Toole and Ethan Sorrell](#) (Into the Smoke TV, 2017), two PGFD members involved in this incident. For an in depth look at the fire dynamics involved with the 2012 incident, read [Simulation of a Residential Wind Driven Basement Fire - Riverdale Heights, MD](#) (Weinschenk, Overholt, & Madrzykowski, 2015).

While the house in the 2021 incident in this 10-Minute Training had a basement, there was no report of basement involvement (unlike the 2012 incident). However, what critical factors between these two incidents were similar? Discuss these two incidents with your crews and examine where you may encounter similar conditions.

References

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