



In-Station Training

TM 23-35 Residential Fire



Author

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Purpose

Large Victorian style homes present multiple challenges during firefighting operations due to balloon frame construction, complex roof lines, and multiple interconnected void spaces. Knowledge of the specific critical factors related to building construction and fire behavior is essential to safe and effective firefighting operations in this type of building.

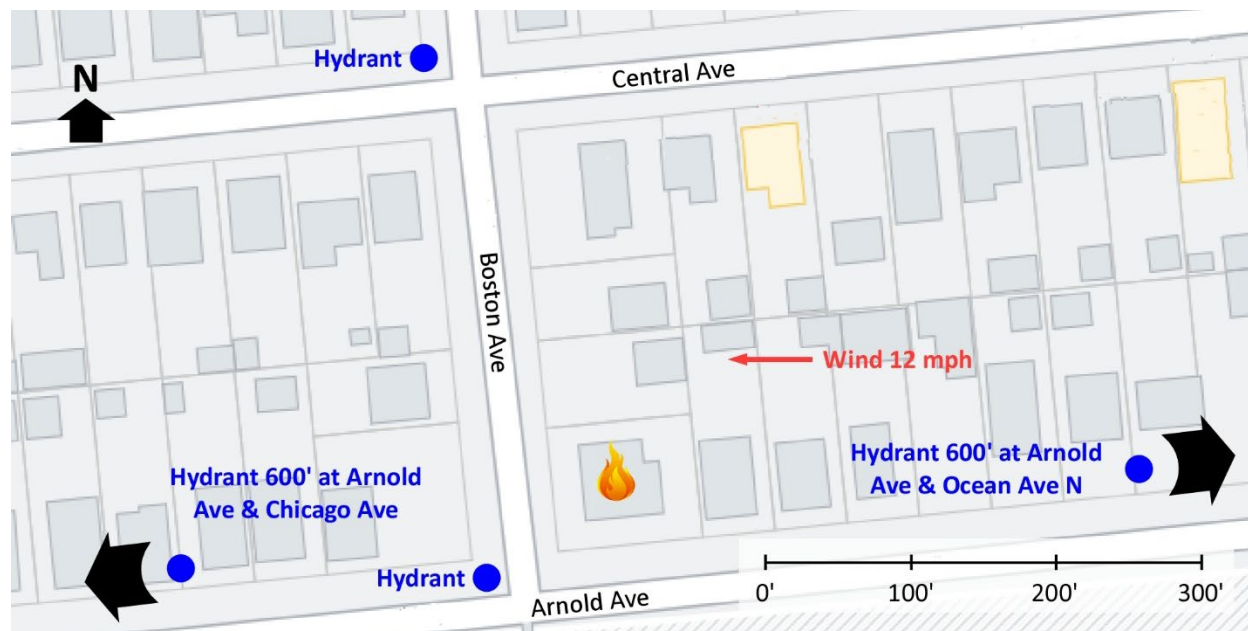
Learning Outcomes

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 at 37 Arnold Avenue, Point Pleasant Beach, New Jersey on April 28, 2023, at 22:00 (Jersey Shore Fire Response, 2023; MidJersey News, 2023; & Deamonracer2, 2023). Review the map and photos (Figures 1-6) to gain an understanding of the area and building involved.

Figure 1. Map of the Incident Area



Note: Adapted from Google. (2023a). [Map, 37 Arnold Avenue, Point Pleasant Beach, NJ].

<https://bit.ly/3s9kDjZ>.

Figure 2. Aerial View



Note: Adapted from Google. (2023b). [Aerial view, 37 Arnold Avenue, Point Pleasant Beach, NJ].
<https://bit.ly/3E42ffc>.

There is a hydrant on the corner of Arnold Ave and Boston Ave as well as one block to the north and one block to the east of the incident location as illustrated in Figure 1.

Figure 3. Alpha/Bravo Corner



Note: Adapted from Google. (2021a). [Street view, 37 Arnold Avenue, Point Pleasant Beach, NJ].
<https://bit.ly/3P2Skgh>.

Figure 4. Side Alpha



Note: Adapted from Google. (2021b). [Street view, 37 Arnold Avenue, Point Pleasant Beach, NJ].
<https://bit.ly/44hpMUo>.

Figure 5. Alpha/Delta Corner



Note: Note: Adapted from Google. (2021c). [Street view, 37 Arnold Avenue, Point Pleasant Beach, NJ].
<https://bit.ly/3KJHn0s>.

Figure 6. Bravo/Charlie Corner



Note: Adapted from Google. (2021d). [Street view, 37 Arnold Avenue, Point Pleasant Beach, NJ]. <https://bit.ly/3skeGB1>.

The temperature is 49° F with wind from east at 12 mph (Weather Underground, 2023). You have been dispatched to 37 Arnold Avenue for a report of a residential fire at 22:00. You are the company officer or AIC of the first arriving engine and have your company's typical staffing.

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, another engine and advanced life support ambulance with typical staffing for your agency go enroute. The second engine and ambulance will arrive approximately five minutes after you, followed by the command officer. All other units dispatched on the first alarm will arrive after the command officer. You are responding from the west on Arnold Avenue.

Watch the [incident video](#) (Jersey Shore Fire Response, 2023) from 01:32 to 01:52 and examine Figure 7 illustrating conditions on Side Bravo on arrival. As you approach the intersection of Arnold and Boston Avenues, your apparatus operator indicates that they will take the hydrant after getting an attack line in operation.

Figure 7. Conditions on Arrival Side Bravo



Note: Adapted from Jersey Shore Fire Response. (2023). Pre-arrival two alarm structure fire Point Pleasant Beach New Jersey 4/28/23 [video]. <https://bit.ly/45gHhpd>.

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?

No smoke is visible from Side Delta. Occupants report that everyone evacuated the house but are not accounted for (their location is unknown).

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.

As you commence tactical operations, your apparatus operator transmits the following radio message:

Command, Engine 1 with Priority Traffic! You acknowledge the Priority Traffic. The hydrant at Arnold and Boston just failed, need a supply line from another hydrant.

6. Engine 2 arrives and reports that they are Level 1 at the hydrant on Arnold Avenue at Ocean Avenue. State the tactical assignment you would give them 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?
8. While this building is identified as a single-family home (Zillow, 2023), did you observe any indicators that this could be a multi-family or possibly bed and breakfast occupancy. How would these types of occupancies impact tactical operations or the task level activity during firefighting operations?

Watch the [incident video](#) (Jersey Shore Fire Response, 2023) from 06:15 to 06:40 and from before answering the next question.

9. Given the nature of the hydrant failure, what impact might this have on fireground water supply beyond needing a supply line from another hydrant? What alternatives exist to address the impact of the failed hydrant (consider the extent of leakage illustrated in the incident video and an alternative scenario where the hydrant was fully open when the failure occurred).

Watch the [incident video](#) (Jersey Shore Fire Response, 2023) from 09:14 to 11:30 before answering the next question.

10. In this incident, the second arriving engine performed a forward lay from a hydrant to the west of the incident location and supplied their tank water to the first engine while waiting for the supply line to be charged. What are the advantages and disadvantages of this tactical approach? What other alternatives could be used and what are their advantages and disadvantages?

Watch the [incident video](#) (Jersey Shore Fire Response, 2023) from 12:30 to 13:30 before answering the next question.

11. If your company was operating an attack line on the second floor for fire control and an emergency traffic message was transmitted indicating a strategic shift to defense and ordering companies to “withdraw from the building and report PAR on exit”, what actions would you take? How would your actions differ if ordered to “abandon the building and report PAR on exit”?
12. The first arriving engine positioned on the west side of the main fire occupancy (likely to leave room on Side Alpha for the first arriving truck company. What were the disadvantages of this apparatus position and what alternative positioning of the first arriving engine may have better? Why?

Additional Learning: Read *The Fireman’s Guide to Main Street: The Old House* (Shady & Tobin, 2022) for a quick look at tactical issues in legacy homes such as the one encountered in this incident.

Get outside and work through the options for addressing issues with hydrant water supply, building your firefighters knowledge and skill to deal with the following types of problems:

- Large hydrant cap stuck.
- One or more 2 ½” caps stuck.
- Hydrant valve stuck (stem will not turn).
- Broken stem (spins freely without opening the hydrant valve)
- Hydrant cannot be turned on or is otherwise inoperative.

In addition to the physical skills in addressing these issues, practice transmitting priority traffic radio messages related to inoperative hydrants.

References

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