



In-Station Training

TM 23-36 Vacant Residential Fire



Author

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Purpose

Firefighting operations in vacant buildings can present significant risk from deteriorated structural conditions resulting from age, lack of maintenance, and in some cases previous fires. Vacant homes may also be used by people who are homeless, presenting a variable and unknown life-hazard under fire conditions.

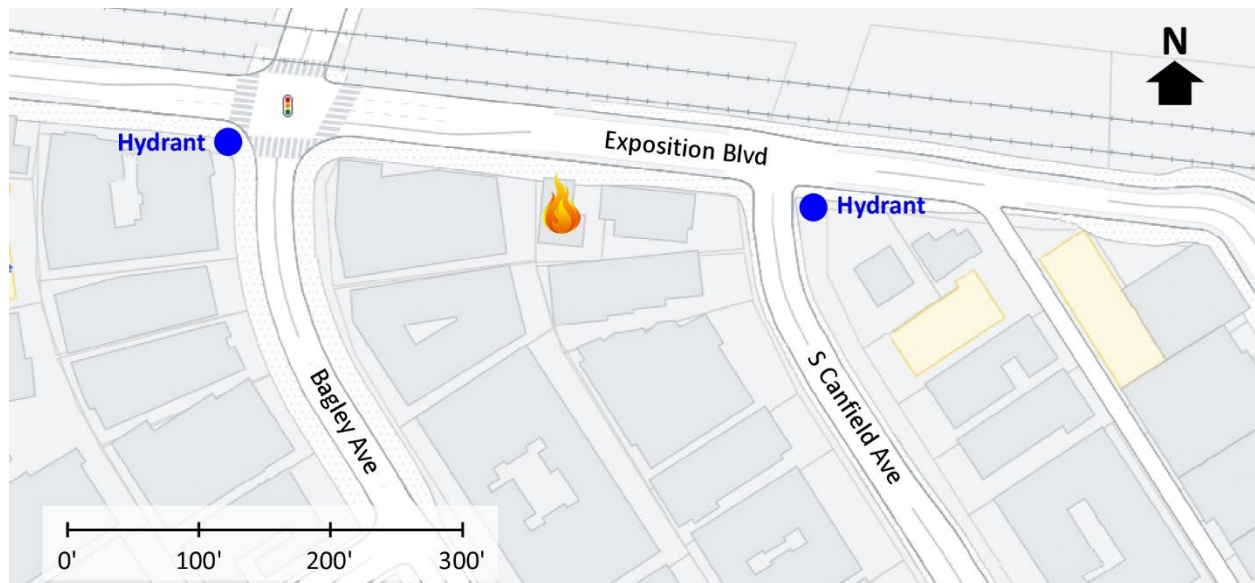
Learning Outcomes

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 9304 Exposition Boulevard, Los Angeles, California on August 23, 2023, at 03:00 (FB1 Response Videos, 2023 & LA Incident Tracker, 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, 9304 Exposition Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA].

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

Figure 2. Aerial View



Note: Adapted from Google. (2023b). [Aerial view, 9304 Exposition Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA].
<https://bit.ly/44q2VpZ>.

There are hydrants on Exposition Boulevard on either side of the incident location at Bagley Avenue and South Canfield Avenue as illustrated in Figure 1.

Figure 3. Alpha/Bravo Corner



Note: Adapted from Google. (2023c). [Street view, 9304 Exposition Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA].
<https://bit.ly/45qDPbV>.

Figure 4. Side Alpha



Note: Adapted from Google. (2023d). [Street view, 9304 Exposition Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA].
<https://bit.ly/45HVED4>.

Figure 5. Alpha/Delta Corner



Note: Note: Adapted from Google. (2023e). [Street view, 9304 Exposition Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA].
<https://bit.ly/3QR58Yt>.

Figure 6. Alpha/Bravo Corner 3D Aerial View



Note: Note: Adapted from Google. (2023f). [3d aerial view, 9304 Exposition Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA]. <https://bit.ly/45GIXt8>.

The temperature is 68° F with no appreciable wind from the north (Weather Underground, 2023). You have been dispatched to 9304 Exposition Boulevard for a report of a fire in a vacant building. You recognize the address as your station has responded to two other fires in this building earlier in the year (Citizen.com, 2023 & LA Incident Tracker, 2023). 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 with typical staffing for your agency go enroute. The second engine will arrive shortly 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 east on Exposition Boulevard.

Watch the [incident video](#) (FB1 Response Videos, 2023) from 00:08 to 00:20 and examine Figure 7 illustrating conditions on Side Alpha on arrival.

Figure 7. Conditions on Arrival



Note: Adapted from FB1 Response Videos. (2023). LAFD Battles Vacant House Fire: Station 43 (Palms) [video]. Retrieved August 26, 2023, from <https://bit.ly/3qOhlm0>.

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?

Access to Side Charlie from along Side Bravo is obstructed by a fence and fire conditions, access along Side Delta is obstructed by a concrete wall, and a fence.

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. Engine 2 arrives and reports that they are Level 1 at the hydrant on Exposition Boulevard at Bagley Avenue. State the tactical assignment you would give them exactly as you would transmit it.

Watch the [incident video](#) (FB1 Response Videos, 2023) from 00:20 to 02:00 illustrating conditions as the first attack line is placed into operation.

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](#) (FB1 Response Videos, 2023) from 02:00 to 02:10.

8. The initial strategy implemented by the first arriving companies was offensive (with attack lines operating on the exterior, but inside the collapse zone)? Was this consistent with your strategy? What critical factors influenced your strategic decision-making?
9. An apparatus mounted master stream was used to protect the Bravo 1 Exposure. If your company was tasked with this tactic, what task level direction would you provide the firefighter operating the master stream (assume that they are a probationary firefighter with limited experience operating a master stream for exposure protection)?

Watch the [incident video](#) (FB1 Response Videos, 2023) from 02:10 to 04:30. At 03:56 in the incident video two apparatus mounted master streams are in operation for fire control in the main fire occupancy.

10. How should the IC implement a shift in strategy from offense to defense under the conditions encountered in this incident? If you were advised of a strategic shift to defense and ordered to withdraw, what actions should you take as the officer of a company operating inside the collapse zone?

Additional Learning: Watch [Monthly Basic Training April 2020-Master Streams](#) (MC DFRS, 2020). As you watch this video keep in mind that Montgomery County (MD) Fire and Rescue Services (MC DFRS) uses 4" hose (rather than 5" hose as used by ECFR) necessitating use of dual lines for the high flow rates required by large or multiple master streams. In addition, MC FRS has a diversity of fire apparatus and master stream devices.

- Review the characteristics, capabilities, and limitations of the master stream devices on your apparatus or that you may encounter when working with automatic and mutual aid companies.
- Get out and practice deployment and operation of fixed and portable master stream devices!

References

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