



In-Station Training

TM 23-38 Outside Fire-Commercial



Author

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Purpose

When responding to an outside fire near a building, it is essential to consider the potential for extension to the interior. As identified in *Study of Residential Attic Fire Mitigation Tactics and Exterior Fire Spread Hazards on Fire Fighter Safety* (Kerber & Zevotek, 2014), if the fire starts on the outside, start fighting it from the outside. However, a quick transition to the interior for fire control or to check for extension is essential. This tactical consideration applies to both residential and commercial buildings.

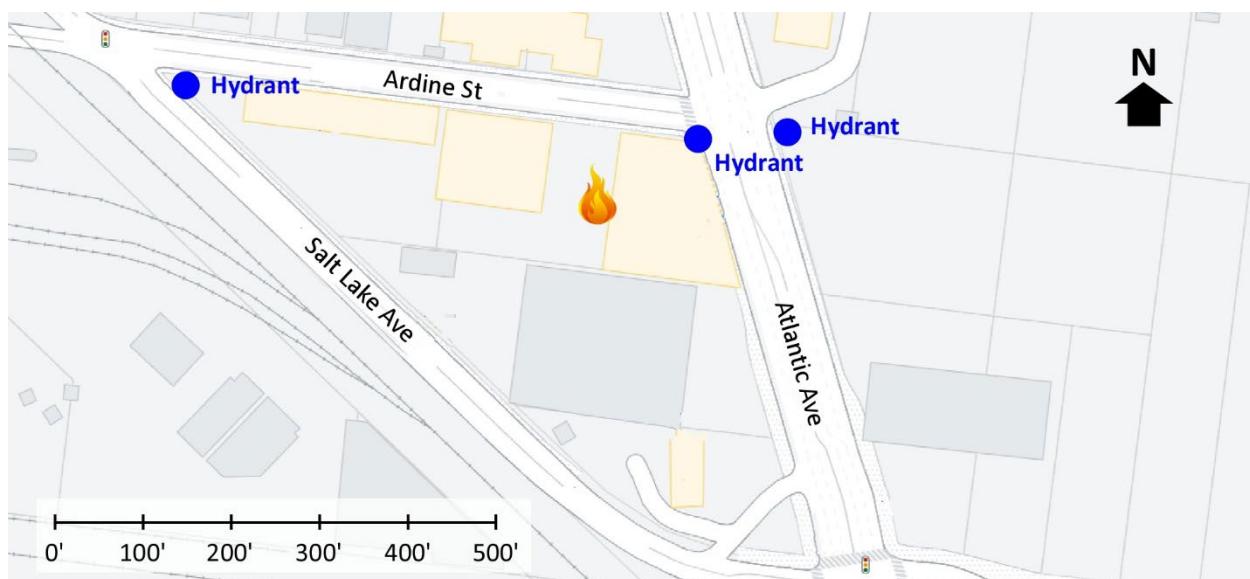
Learning Outcomes

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 an outside fire next to Sleep Comfort Furniture, located at 8407 Atlantic Avenue, Cudahy, CA on July 29, 2023, at 12:18 (Chasing Reality OSTV, 2023 & C. Christensen personal communication September 9, 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, 8407 Atlantic Avenue, Cudahy, CA]. <https://bit.ly/45BKtMp>.

Figure 2. Aerial View



Note: Adapted from Google. (2023b). [Aerial view, 8407 Atlantic Avenue, Cudahy, CA].

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

There are two hydrants at the intersection of Ardine Street and a third hydrant to the west on Ardine Street as illustrated in Figures 1 and 2.

Figure 3. Bravo/Charlie Corner



Note: Adapted from Google. (2022a). [Street view, 8407 Atlantic Avenue, Cudahy, CA].

<https://bit.ly/3EkoL3H>.

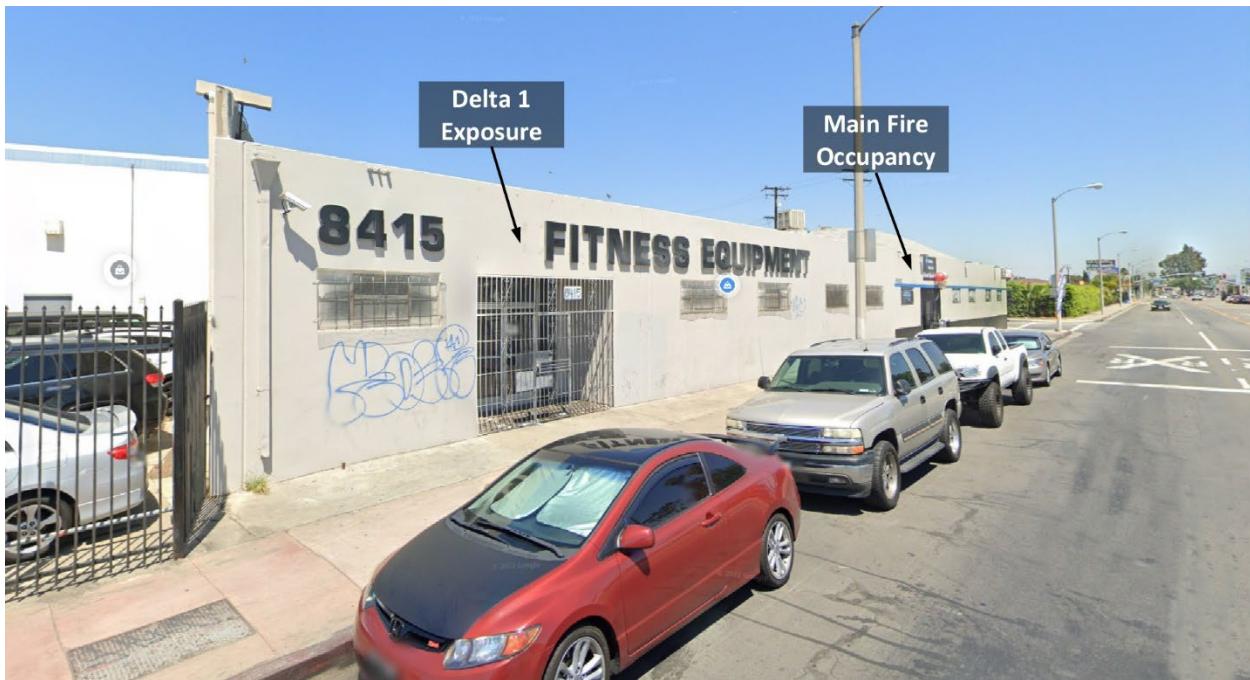
Figure 4. Side Alpha



Note: Adapted from Google. (2022b). [Street view, 8407 Atlantic Avenue, Cudahy, CA].

<https://bit.ly/47WXn9n>.

Figure 5. Charlie/Delta Corner



Note: Adapted from Google. (2022c). [Street view, 8407 Atlantic Avenue, Cudahy, CA].

<https://bit.ly/486jydb>.

Figure 6. 3D Aerial View Alpha/Bravo Corner



Note: Adapted from Google. (2023c). [3d aerial view, 8407 Atlantic Avenue, Cudahy, CA].

<https://bit.ly/3r2D9u8>.

The temperature is 82° F with wind from the south southwest at 9 mph (Weather Underground, 2023). You have been dispatched to Sleep Comfort Furniture, 8407 Atlantic Avenue for a report of an outside fire next to the building at 12:18. Based on the reported proximity of the fire next to the building, this incident has been dispatched as a structure fire. 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 four minutes after you, followed by the command officer. All other units dispatched on the first alarm will arrive after the command officer.

Watch the first 0:15 of the [incident video](#) (Chasing Reality OSTV, 2023) and examine Figure 7 illustrating conditions on arrival (this photo has been edited to remove tactical action by the first arriving company).

Figure 7. Conditions on Arrival



Note: Adapted from Chasing Reality OSTV. (2023). Outside fire damages furniture business | Cudahy, CA 7.9.23. <https://bit.ly/45Fi8oy>.

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?

You observed conditions on Side Charlie (Atlantic Avenue) and Side Bravo on approach and did not observe any smoke from the building (other than the plume of smoke coming from Side Alpha (parking lot and access to the building). As illustrated in Figure 2, access from Side Alpha to Side Delta is obstructed by the Delta 1 and Delta 2 exposures.

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. State the tactical assignment you would give them exactly as you would transmit it.

The first company accessing the interior observes smoke and fire extending across the ceiling from Side Alpha (the location of the exterior fire). Figure 8 illustrates the interior looking towards Side Alpha under non-fire conditions.

Figure 8. Interior of Sleep Comfort



Note: Adapted from Yelp. (2023). *Sleep Comfort Furniture and Mattress*. Retrieved September 8, 2023, from <https://bit.ly/3Lfgd1Y>.

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. If your company was assigned to go to the roof and provide a roof report, what would you be looking for and what information would you provide? If you had little smoke and did not have a significant heat signature using a thermal imager, state your roof report exactly as you would transmit it to command.

Additional Learning: Bowstring truss roofs present unique challenges to firefighting operations. In some cases, the trusses are exposed to the floor below and in others the trusses are concealed above a ceiling. Watch [Bowstring Truss Roofs](#) (Fire Engineering, 2020) and [Hackensack Ford Fire](#) (Unknown, 2014) to learn more about this type of roof construction and the hazards that it presents during firefighting operations.

Get out and do a tactical tour of your response area (a great opportunity when returning to quarters from incidents) and examine the different types of construction that you may encounter. East County Fire and Rescue (ECFR) companies should consider the types of construction encountered in the cities of Camas and Washougal as well as those in ECFR's district.

References

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