In-Station Training

TM 23-41 Residential Fire

Author

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Purpose

Reading the fire involves recognition of building, smoke, air track, heat, and flame (B-SAHF) fire behavior indicators and understanding the implications of your observations. Generally, this involves recognition primed decision-making (Klein, 2009) rather than a solely analytical process. The fire behavior indicators are important critical factors in initial and ongoing size-up.

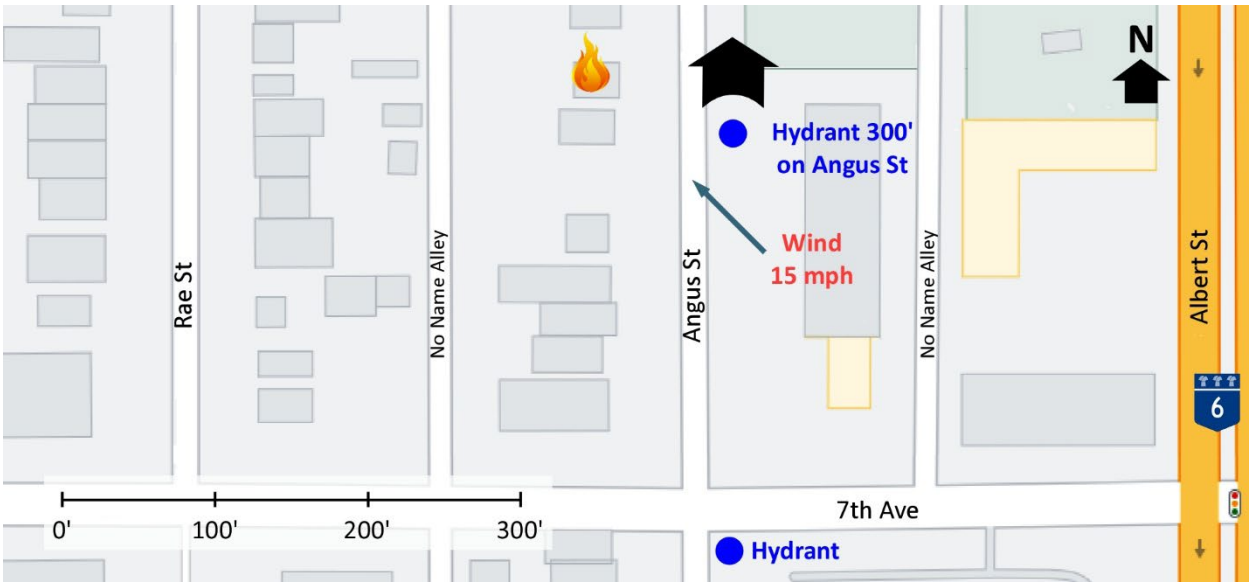
Learning Outcomes

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 1242 Angus Street, Saskatchewan, Canada on May 22, 2023, at 04:50 (FirevideosFD, 2023). Review the map and photos (Figures 1-4) to gain an understanding of the area and building involved.

Figure 1. Map of the Incident Area



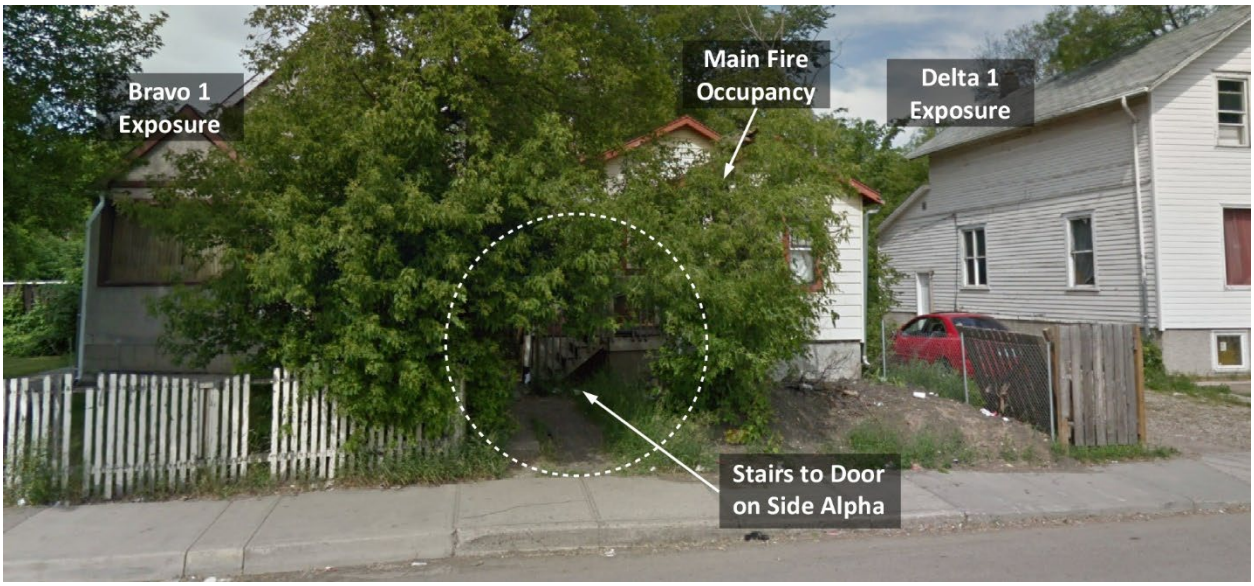
Note: Adapted from Google. (2023a). [Map, 1242 Angus Street, Regina, SK]. https://bit.ly/3sYVpoS.

Figure 2. Aerial View

Note: Adapted from Google. (2023b). [Aerial view, 1242 Angus Street, Regina, SK]. https://bit.ly/48nl1fn.

The closest hydrant is at the corner of Angus Street and 7th Avenue. A second hydrant is located on Angus Street at 6th Avenue as illustrated in Figure 1.

Figure 3. Side Alpha



Note: Adapted from Google. (2017a). [Street view, 1242 Angus Street, Regina, SK]. https://bit.ly/3LwXgrm.

Figure 4. Alpha/Delta Corner

Note: Adapted from Google. (2017b). [Street view, 1242 Angus Street, Regina, SK]. https://bit.ly/46f0aJC.

The temperature is 49° F with wind from the southeast at 15 mph (Weather Underground, 2023). You have been dispatched to 1242 Angus Street for a residential fire at 04:50. 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 and another engine with typical staffing for your agency go enroute. The second engine will arrive six minutes after you, followed by the command officer. All other units dispatched on the first alarm will arrive after the command officer.

Watch the incident video (FirevideosFD, 2023) from 01:00 to 01:30 and examine Figure 5 illustrating conditions on arrival.

Figure 5. Conditions on Arrival-Alpha/Delta Corner

Note: Adapted from FirevideosFD. (2023). *Pre arrival house fire Regina, Saskatchewan* [video]. https://bit.ly/3rypuv4.

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?

Windows on Side Charlie are boarded up, and conditions on Sides Bravo and Charlie are consistent with those observed on Side Alpha.

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.

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 from 03:15 to 04:45 before answering the next question.

8. How could the first arriving company have improved deployment of the initial attack line?

Watch the incident video from 07:56 to 08:56 before answering the next question.

9. What factors could have impacted forcible entry through the door on Side Charlie? How could the company operating on Side Charlie have improved their task level action to force the door?

Additional Learning: Watch Tactical Implication *Nothing Showing Means Nothing* (OFD Fire Training, 2025) for an excellent review of why lack of significant smoke showing from the exterior should be considered with a high index of suspicion.

Given the short distance from the apparatus to the building in this incident, the accordion reverse or coil method of deployment would have been a good choice.

- Watch *Accordion Reverse Hose Deployment* (On Fire Multimedia Productions, 2017a). This video provides a good look at this method of hose deployment. However, make sure you are looking where you are going when stretching away from the entry point with the nozzle and flake of hose to avoid tripping.
- Watch *Coil Deployment* (Morgani, 2019). This video provides a good look at this method of hose deployment. It is also possible to deploy a coil directly from the shoulder as illustrated in this video from the Everett Fire Department. However, this requires additional practice to ensure that hose does not become tangled.

Use 100’ of spare hose and get some reps with each of these methods. Practice these skills until you can’t get them wrong!

Inward opening (swinging away from you) exterior doors are commonly encountered in residential occupancies. However, locked inward swinging doors can be encountered on the interior of any type of occupancy. Review the basic process for conventional forcible entry through inward opening doors and watch *Halligan Positioning* (Fire Engineering, n.d.) for a good review of how to effectively position the Halligan when forcing an inward opening door. Kata is a Japanese word meaning "form". It refers to a detailed choreographed pattern of martial arts movements made to be practiced alone. Work on your "forcible entry kata". Working alone or with a partner walk and talk through the procedure for forcing an inward opening door and practice positioning your body and your tools. As with hose deployment, practice the "forcible entry kata" until it becomes second nature!

References

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