



In-Station Training

TM 24-02 Residential Fire



Author

Chief Ed Hartin

Purpose

Size-up is ongoing and the strategic decision-making model is a cyclical process. When engaged in offensive operations, IC #1 must integrate interior conditions and observations with the initial size-up to develop improved situational awareness.

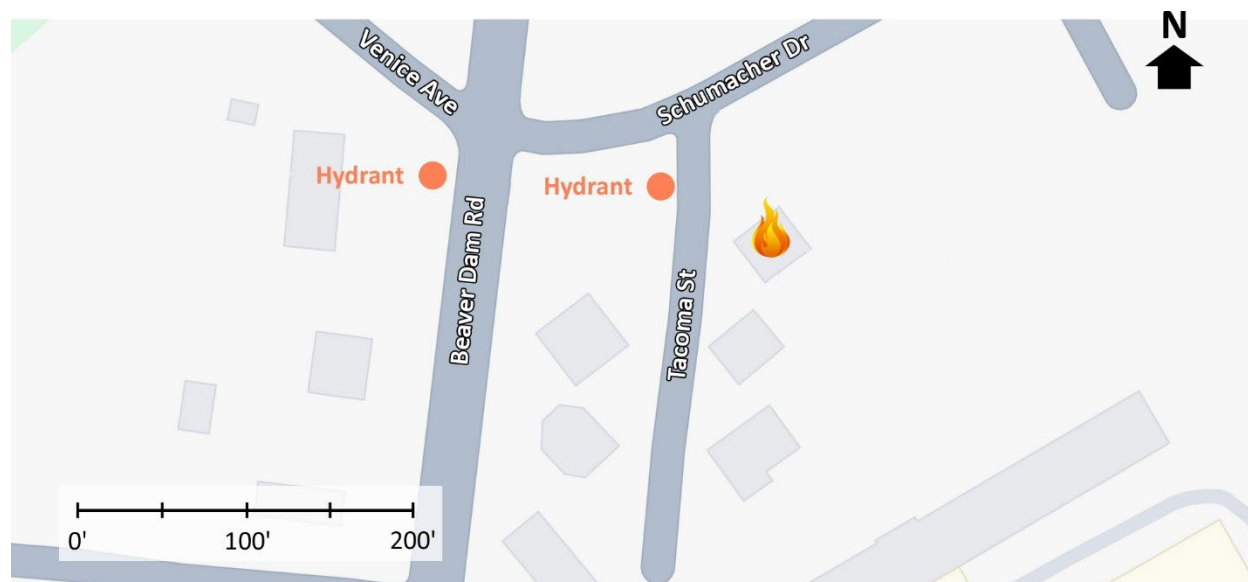
Learning Outcomes

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 1108 Tacoma Street, Bristol Township, Pennsylvania on December 8, 2023, at 03:00 (McGoldrick, 2023; Philly FireFeed, 2023; & Sofield, 2023). Review the map and photos (Figures 1-5) to gain an understanding of the area and building involved.

Figure 1. Map of the Incident Area



Note: Adapted from Google. (2023a). [Map, 1108 Tacoma Street, Bristol Township, PA].

<https://bit.ly/3RLdf91>.

Figure 2. Aerial View



Note: Adapted from Google. (2023b). [Aerial view, 1108 Tacoma Street, Bristol Township, PA].
<https://bit.ly/41sDi7S>.

The closest hydrant is across the street from the Main Fire Occupancy and a second hydrant is located on Venice Avenue and Beaver Dam Road as illustrated in Figures 1 and 2.

Figure 3. Alpha/Bravo Corner



Note: Adapted from Google. (2023c). [Street view, 1108 Tacoma Street, Bristol Township, PA].
<https://bit.ly/3RKpliA>.

Figure 4. Alpha/Delta Corner



Note: Adapted from Google. (2023d). [Street view, 1108 Tacoma Street, Bristol Township, PA].
<https://bit.ly/3vas4ZF>.

Figure 5. Side Delta



Note: Adapted from Google. (2023e). [3d aerial view, 1108 Tacoma Street, Bristol Township, PA].
<https://bit.ly/470aDID>.

The temperature is currently 32° F with no appreciable wind from the north (Weather Underground, 2023). You have been dispatched to 1108 Tacoma Street for a report of a possible residential fire at 03:00. You are the company officer or AIC of the first arriving engine and have a staffing level of three.

1. What critical factors would you consider when dispatched and during response and what conversations would you have with your crew while responding?

Dispatch provides an update indicating multiple callers, one reporting the neighbor's house on fire and another reporting an outside fire next to the house. Dispatch provides a further update advising that they spoke to the homeowner who is refusing to leave the house. You hear a command officer and another engine with typical staffing for your agency go enroute. You will arrive from the south on Beaver Dam Road. The second engine will arrive from the same direction 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](#) from 01:45 to 02:15 (McGoldrick, 2023) and examine Figure 6 illustrating conditions on arrival.

Figure 6. Conditions on Arrival



Note: Adapted from McGoldrick, H. (2023). *12-8-23 Tacoma Street basement fire Bristol Township, PA* [video]. <https://bit.ly/480Vloh>

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?

Conditions on Sides Charlie and Delta are consistent with this on Sides Alpha and Bravo with smoke from the windows and eaves. It appears that the building is smoke logged. All exterior doors are locked. As you complete your 360, a bystander and law enforcement officer kick in the front door. Watch the [incident video](#) (McGoldrick, 2023) from 02:55 to 03:05 and examine the conditions illustrated in Figure 7.

Figure 7. Conditions at the Door on Side Alpha



Note: Adapted from McGoldrick, H. (2023). *12-8-23 Tacoma Street basement fire Bristol Township, PA* [video]. <https://bit.ly/480Vloh>

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.

You enter through the door on Side Alpha and find extremely cluttered conditions and locate a fire in the living room involving a couch and the wall. You do not find any victims in the immediate area of the fire.

6. Engine 2 arrives and reports that they are Level 1 on a hydrant at Beaver Dam Road and Venice Avenue. State the tactical assignment you would give them exactly as you would transmit it.

Smoke is to floor level and visibility is poor. You have a significant thermal signature on the floor, the wall on Side Charlie, and in the attic. Opening the wall and ceiling you determine that fire is running vertically through the stud channels in the wall on Side Charlie and has extended to the attic.

7. What action will you take based on completion of search in the fire room and observed conditions?
8. 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](#) (McGoldrick, 2023) from 09:00 to 12:00.

9. What communications issues impacted situational awareness for the companies operating at this incident and IC #2?
10. If you encountered the conditions observed in the incident video between 09:00 and 12:00 while operating on Floor 1, what action would you take? Consider both communications with other companies and command as well as task level action.
11. If you were assigned as an on-deck company, what tactical assignments would you anticipate receiving and what conversations would you have with your crew based on the information reported in the incident video between 09:00 and 12:00?

Additional Learning: Basement fires can be extremely challenging and present significant risk to firefighters during offensive operations. One of the key elements of an update report is the presence (or absence) of a basement and if it is involved in fire. In this incident, there was no indication of the presence of a basement and Chief McGoldrick reported that basements were unusual in this area of the community.

Read [*Preventing Deaths and Injuries of Fire Fighters Working at Basement and Other Below-Grade Fires*](#) (NIOSH, 2018) and then watch the remainder of the incident video. As you watch the video identify any strategic or tactical issues of concern and what alternative approaches you might take if confronted with similar circumstances.

If you have not completed the Underwriters Laboratories Fire Safety Research Institute (UL FSRI) on-line course on basement fires, consider this as a next step in improving your understanding of this challenging type of incident. Click [here](#) to access basement fire resources including the on-line course from UL FSRI.

References

- Google. (2023a). [Map, 1108 Tacoma Street, Bristol Township, PA]. Retrieved December 17, 2023, from <https://bit.ly/3RLdf91>.
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