



# In-Station Training

## TM 24-21 Residential Fire



### Author

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### Purpose

A fire in a small, one-story house may on the surface appear to be a simple, even “routine” incident. But this is not always the case. Firefighters have (and continue to be) injured and killed in small residential occupancies. Managing risk requires proficiency at the task, tactical, and strategic levels.

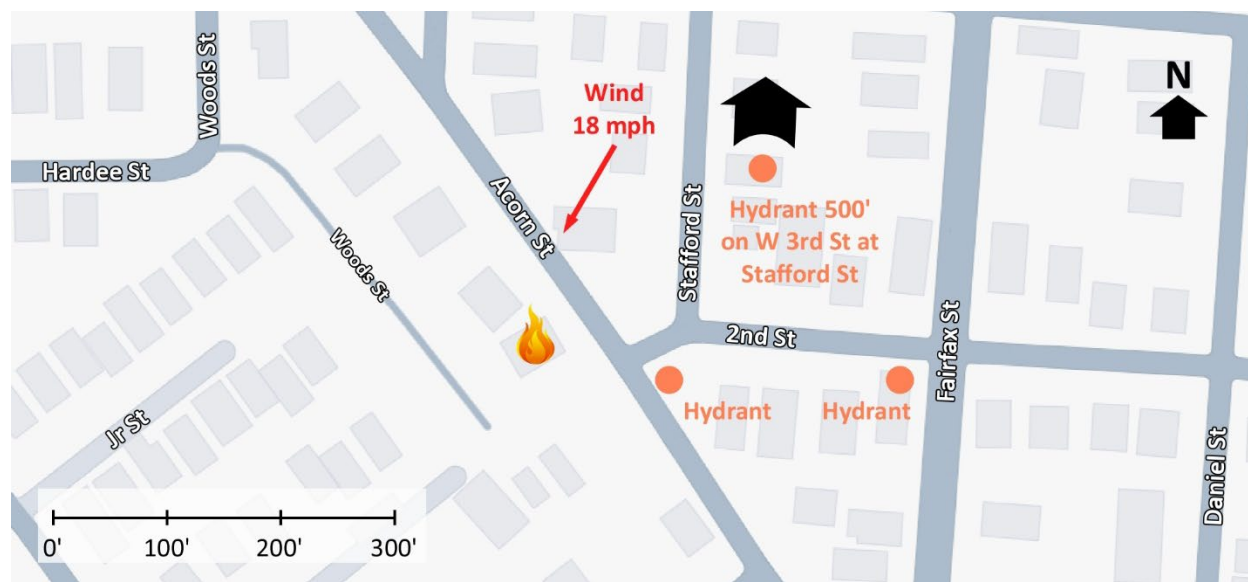
### Learning Outcomes

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 1202 Acorn Street, Jacksonville, Florida on November 20, 2020, at 13:10 (Jacksonville Fire Rescue Department, 2020 & Scanlan, 2020). 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. (2024a). [Map, 1202 Acorn Street, Jacksonville, FL]. <https://bit.ly/3PS8uZV>.

Figure 2. Aerial View



Note: Adapted from Google. (2024b). [Aerial view 1202 Acorn Street, Jacksonville, FL].  
<https://bit.ly/49r3ZfD>.

The closest hydrant is on Acorn Street at 2<sup>nd</sup> Street with additional hydrants on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Streets as shown in Figures 1 and 2.

Figure 3. Alpha/Delta Corner



Note: Adapted from Google. (2019a). [Street view, 1202 Acorn Street, Jacksonville, FL].  
<https://bit.ly/3VT3MyP>.



Figure 4. Side Alpha



*Note:* Adapted from Google. (2019b). [Street view, 1202 Acorn Street, Jacksonville, FL].  
<https://bit.ly/3PVmB0w>.

Figure 5. Side Charlie



*Note:* Adapted from Google. (2019c). [Street view, 1202 Acorn Street, Jacksonville, FL].  
<https://bit.ly/3VWghcT>.

The temperature is currently 72° F with wind from the north northeast at 18 mph (Weather Underground, 2020). You have been dispatched to 1202 Acorn Street for a report of a residential fire at 13:10. 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?

Dispatch provides an update that multiple calls are being received with report of a trapped occupant. You hear a command officer, three other engines, and an advanced life support ambulance with typical staffing for your agency go enroute. You will arrive from the southeast on Acorn Street. The second engine will arrive from the same direction six minutes after you. The command officer will arrive shortly after the second engine. All other units dispatched on the first alarm will arrive after the command officer.

Examine Figure 6 illustrating conditions on arrival (the incident video begins as the first engine company arrives).

Figure 6. Conditions on Arrival



*Note:* Adapted from Jacksonville Fire Rescue Department (JFRD). (2020). Jacksonville Fire Rescue Department firefighters injured in house fire with reports of one inside [video]. <https://bit.ly/3vljEJV>

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?

Watch the [incident video](#) (JFRD, 2020) from 00:28 to 00:58 and examine Figure 7 illustrating conditions on the Bravo/Charlie Corner.

Figure 7. Bravo/Charlie Corner Shortly After Arrival



*Note:* Adapted from Jacksonville Fire Rescue Department (JFRD). (2020). Jacksonville Fire Rescue Department firefighters injured in house fire with reports of one inside [video]. <https://bit.ly/3vIjEJV>

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 on a hydrant at 2<sup>nd</sup> and Fairfax Streets. 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.

Reflect on your strategic decision-making and responses to questions 1 through 7 before answering the next six questions.

8. What was the problem?
9. What was getting in the way of achieving your tactical priorities?
10. Was there anything in this incident that could have hurt or killed you (right now)?
11. Was it reasonable to believe that the building was occupied?
12. Was there searchable space?
13. If you believed it was reasonable that the building was occupied and there was searchable space, what could you do about it?

Watch the [incident video](#) (JFRD, 2020) from 00:58 to 02:58 before answering the next several questions.

14. The initial attack line was stretched through a door on Side Alpha. What were the advantages and disadvantages of this initial attack position? Give specific thought to the report of a trapped occupant and the fire location.
15. A second attack line was stretched (or the initial attack line repositioned) around Sides Bravo and Charlie to a doorway on Side Bravo (bypassing the fire showing from windows on Side Delta and

Charlie). How would application of water through the window(s) on Side Bravo or Charlie have impacted conditions on the interior?

**Additional Learning:** Four firefighters were burned during the incident addressed in this 10-Minute Training. The Jacksonville fire chief was quoted in the press as saying "They forced their way in doing what they do best — to affect a rescue and dealing with some pretty high heat and obviously low visibility, ... Some have some pretty good burns, but they are pretty minor, first- and second-degree burns."

Complete the short on-line course [Residential Fire Near Miss Incident in LaGrange, GA](#) (UL FSRI, 2023). When completing this on-line course please make sure your profile identifies your agency.

For a deeper understanding of the incident in La Grange, read [Four Firefighters Burned in Residential House Fire – Georgia](#) (McKinnon & Madrzykowski, 2023).

Discuss the similarities and differences between the incidents in Jacksonville and La Grange with your crew. Take the discussion to the tactical and task levels and consider how you would address the need for both fire control and primary search in incidents like those in Jacksonville and La Grange.

## References

- Google. (2019a). [Street view, 1202 Acorn Street, Jacksonville, FL]. Retrieved April 11, 2024, from <https://bit.ly/3VT3MyP>.
- Google. (2019b). [Street view, 1202 Acorn Street, Jacksonville, FL]. Retrieved April 11, 2024, from <https://bit.ly/3PVmB0w>.
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Scanlan, D. (2020). *4 Jacksonville firefighters injured battling blaze at Acorn Street home*. Retrieved April 10, 2024, from <https://bit.ly/49Bs3fY>.

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Weather Underground (2020). *Jacksonville, FL weather history* [historical weather November 20, 2020]. Retrieved April 10, 2024, from <https://bit.ly/3Uc66Qa>.