



In-Station Training

TM 24-28 Residential Fire-Entrapment



Author

Chief Ed Hartin

Purpose

Response to a residential fire with a report of trapped occupants presents a considerable challenge for the first arriving companies with the need to rapidly prioritize and address fire control and life safety priorities.

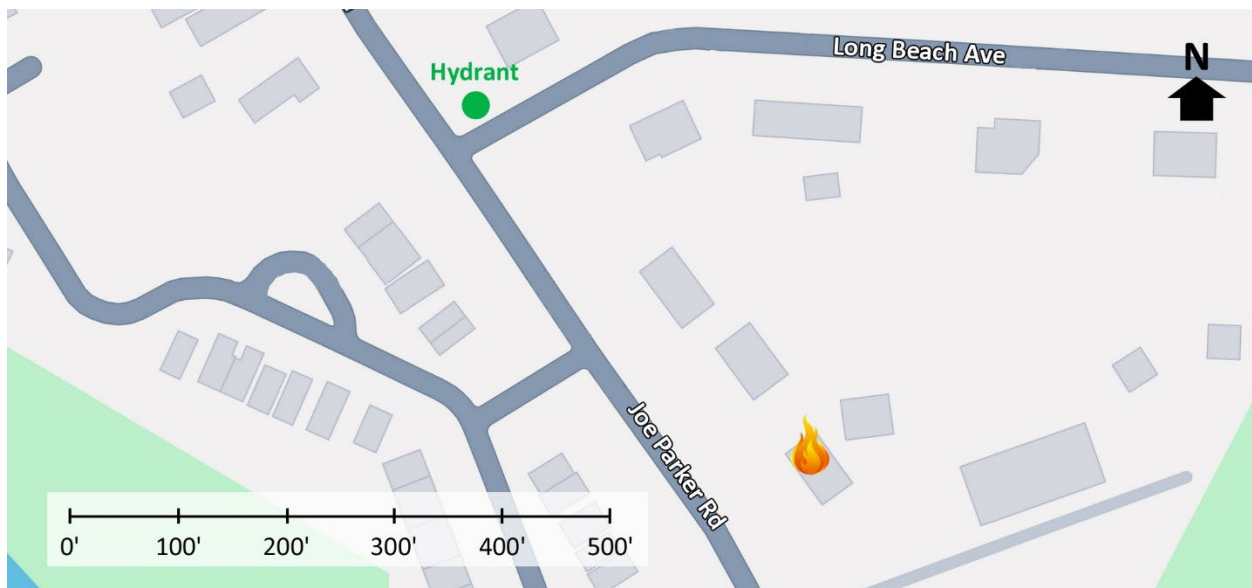
Learning Outcomes

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 419 Joe Parker Road, Lakewood, New Jersey on May 4, 2024, at 01:20 (Jersey Shore Fire Response, 2024 & Calderón, 2024). 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. (2024a). [Map, 419 Joe Parker Road, Lakewood, NJ].

<https://bit.ly/44ZpOTd>.

Figure 2. Aerial View



Note: Adapted from Google. (2024b). [Aerial view 419 Joe Parker Road, Lakewood, NJ]. <https://bit.ly/4dYEPsc>.

Hydrants are located to the northwest and southeast of the incident location on 3rd Street as illustrated in Figure 1.

Figure 3. Side Alpha



Note: Adapted from hotpads. (2023). 419 Joe Parker Rd Lakewood, NJ 08701. <https://bit.ly/4bO65l0>.

Figure 4. Side Charlie



Note: Adapted from hotpads. (2023). 419 Joe Parker Rd Lakewood, NJ 08701. <https://bit.ly/4bO65l0>.

The temperature is currently 45° F with no appreciable wind from the north (Weather Underground, 2024). You have been dispatched to 419 Joe Parker Road for a residential fire with report of a trapped occupant. 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?

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 northwest on Joe Parker Road. The second engine will arrive from the same direction three 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.

Dispatch provides an update reporting that the occupant is trapped in the garage.

Watch the [incident video](#) (Jersey Shore Fire Response, 2024) from 00:42 to 01:05 and examine Figure 6 illustrating conditions on arrival.

Figure 5. Conditions on Arrival



Note: Adapted from Jersey Shore Fire Response. (2024). *Pre arrival bystanders rescue man fully involved house fire third alarm Lakewood New Jersey 5/4/24* [video]. <https://bit.ly/3X0q1Dt>

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?

As you exit the apparatus, you observe multiple bystanders and law enforcement officers attempting to force entry through the garage door with a reciprocating saw.

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.

Watch the [incident video](#) (Jersey Shore Fire Response, 2024) from 01:05 to 02:25. Shortly after exiting the apparatus, law enforcement officers and bystanders make an opening in the garage door and pull the trapped occupant from the building.

6. Engine 2 arrives and reports that they are Level 1 on a hydrant Joe Parker Road at Long Beach Avenue. 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 Main Fire Occupancy 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](#) (Jersey Shore Fire Response, 2024) from 05:30 to 06:30 before answering the next several questions.

14. Did you complete 360-degree reconnaissance on arrival at this incident? Why or why not? If not, how did you address the need to determine the building configuration and conditions on Side Charlie?

15. How did you address the ongoing fire conditions on Side Charlie (e.g., access through the interior or a line deployed to Side Charlie)? What factors influenced your decision?

16. Where would you anticipate the bedrooms to be in this type of house (split level)?

17. What fire and smoke conditions would you anticipate in the bedrooms and adjacent hallways? What building, smoke, air track, heat, and flame indicators lead you to these conclusions?

18. How did you address the need for primary search? Think about access to the searchable spaces and coordination with fire control.

Additional Learning: Conversion of an attached garage to additional living space or an accessory dwelling unit (ADU) is common. In some cases (such as in this incident), the garage door(s) are left in place and a wall constructed behind the door(s). When this is done, the overhead door(s) are secured in the down position. Consider how you may (or may not) be able to identify a garage conversion from the exterior.

Watch [Incredible Garage Conversion! DIY Converting your Garage to the Ultimate Studio or Living Space](#) (Digital Outdoors, 2023). In this conversion, oriented strand board was used on the exterior of the wall constructed behind the overhead door(s). Consider how this would have changed the process of rescuing the civilian occupant of the garage in this 10-Minute Training.

Watch [Residential Garage Doors](#) (Miami-Dade Fire Rescue Training Division, 2023) for demonstration of several methods for gaining access through overhead doors typically found in residential construction. Consider how this method could be adapted to a fixed garage door with a wall behind it such as those encountered in the incident in this 10-Minute Training or the garage conversion video in this additional learning.

Get out and work with the saw or saws carried on your apparatus. If you have a garage door or prop that can be used to practice these cuts, great. If not, use a kata. A kata typically refers to fundamental movements in Japanese martial arts, but can refer to any basic form, routine, or pattern of behavior. You can walk and talk through the sequence of cuts and positioning of the saw without using a saw to master the sequence. Then walk through the cuts using the saw, and finally with the saw running at speed (this will help provide the context of the weight of the saw and gyroscopic forces encountered with a rotary saw).

References

- Calderón, J. (2024). Residents tried to rescue Lakewood man from house fire by sawing through garage door. Retrieved May 27, 2024, from <https://bit.ly/3QZsmdW>.
- Digital Outdoors. (2023). *Incredible garage conversion! DIY converting your garage to the ultimate studio or living space* [video]. Retrieved May 27, 2024, from <https://bit.ly/3yM83dG>.
- Google. (2024a). [Map, 419 Joe Parker Road, Lakewood, NJ]. Retrieved May 27, 2024, from <https://bit.ly/44ZpOTd>.
- Google. (2024b). [Aerial view 419 Joe Parker Road, Lakewood, NJ]. Retrieved May 27, 2024, from <https://bit.ly/4dYEPsc>.
- hotpads. (2023). *419 Joe Parker Rd Lakewood, NJ 08701*. Retrieved May 26, 2024, from <https://bit.ly/4bO65lQ>.
- Jersey Shore Fire Response. (2024). *Pre arrival bystanders rescue man fully involved house fire third alarm Lakewood New Jersey 5/4/24* [video]. Retrieved May 27, 2024, from <https://bit.ly/3X0q1Dt>.
- Miami-Dade Fire-Rescue Training Division. (2023). *Residential garage doors* [video]. Retrieved May 27, 2024, from <https://bit.ly/3QBZ0Db>.
- Weather Underground (2024). *Ewing, NJ weather history* [historical weather May 4, 2024]. Retrieved May 27, 2024, from <https://bit.ly/3VbYbTk>.