



In-Station Training

TM 24-33 Multiple Residential Fire



Author

Chief Ed Hartin

Purpose

The potential for fire extension to exposures is increased by arrangement, building, and weather (particularly wind) critical factors. However, there is even risk of multiple buildings involved on arrival in “typical” neighborhoods of single-family dwellings.

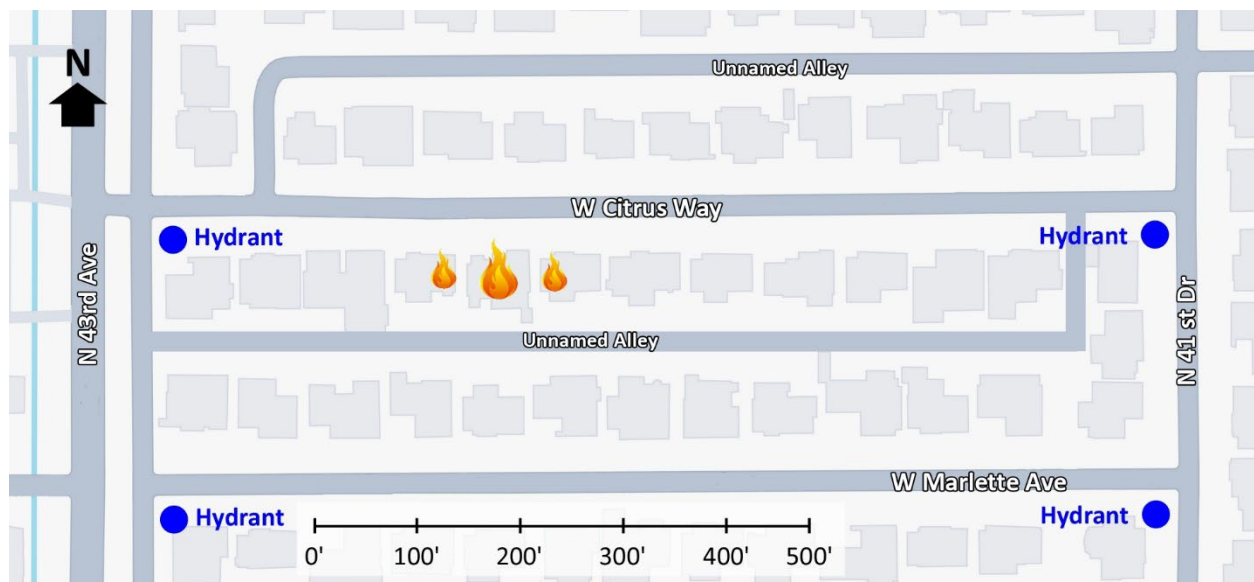
Learning Outcomes

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 multiple residential fire at 4225 to 4213 West Citrus Way in Phoenix, Arizona June 2, 2024, at 01:00 (OnScene TV, 2024). Review the map and photos (Figures 1-6) to gain an understanding of the area and buildings involved.

Figure 1. Map of the Incident Area



Note: Adapted from Google. (2024a). [Map, 4219 W. Citrus Way, Phoenix, AZ]. <https://bit.ly/3y1WsqY>.

Figure 2. Aerial View



Note: Adapted from Google. (2024b). [Aerial view 4219 W. Citrus Way, Phoenix, AZ]. <https://bit.ly/4d3B7fT>.

Hydrants are located at N 42nd Avenue and West Citrus Way and North 41st Drive and West Citrus Way as illustrated in Figure 1.

Figure 3. Alpha/Delta Corner



Note: Adapted from Google. (2022a). [Street view 4219 W. Citrus Way, Phoenix, AZ]. <https://bit.ly/3zlUg8w>.

Figure 4. Side Alpha



Note: Adapted from Google. (2022b). [Street view 4219 W. Citrus Way, Phoenix, AZ].
<https://bit.ly/3VZpyzr>.

Figure 5. Alpha/Bravo Corner



Note: Adapted from Google. (2022c). [Street view 4219 W. Citrus Way, Phoenix, AZ].
<https://bit.ly/3xXfj6E>.

Figure 6. Side Charlie-3D View



Note: Adapted from Google. (2024c). [3d aerial view 4219 W. Citrus Way, Phoenix, AZ].
<https://bit.ly/3W63Nhc>.

The temperature is currently 91° F with wind from the west at 9 mph (Weather Underground, 2024). You have been dispatched to 4219 W. Citrus Way for a residential 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?

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 west on Citrus Way. The second engine will arrive from the opposite direction four 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 7 illustrating conditions on arrival (incident video starts after the start of tactical operations).

Figure 7. Conditions on Arrival



Note: Adapted from OnScene TV. (2024). *3 Houses Burn in Phoenix* [video]. <https://bit.ly/4d1RcTo>.

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?

The main fire occupancy (4219 W Citrus Way) is significantly involved in fire with flames from windows on all sides of the building, the Bravo 1 Exposure (4213 W Citrus Way) has extension to Side Delta and the attic, Exposure Delta 1 (4225 W Citrus Way) has extension to Side Bravo and the attic. There are multiple bystanders, but no accountability for occupants of any of the involved houses.

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 first 00:20 of the [incident video](#) (OnScene TV, 2024).

6. Engine 2 arrives and reports that they are Level 1 on a hydrant south of the complex on Wible Road. 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?

In this incident, IC #1 quickly upgraded the response from a “3 &1” (three engines, truck, and battalion chief) to a first alarm assignment of five engines, two trucks, and additional battalion chiefs with typical urban response times. Consider the differences between this deployment and your own. Watch the [incident video](#) (OnScene TV, 2024) from 00:20 to 04:00 before answering the next several questions.

14. From tactical operations observed in the incident video, it appeared that the companies operating at this incident were defensive in the main fire occupancy and offensive in the Bravo 1 and Delta 1 Exposures. Was this consistent with your strategy? Why or why not? What critical factors influenced your selection of strategy in the main fire occupancy and the Bravo 1 and Delta 1 Exposures?

15. What critical factors influenced your choice of cutoff points? What factors would influence your decision to establish your defensive boundary beyond the structures presently involved (e.g., defensive strategy on the main fire occupancy and involved or possibly presently uninvolved exposures)?

16. Based on your typical staffing what defensive tactical options are available to your engine company as standard tactical plays (e.g., apparatus master stream, portable master stream, large attack line, mid-sized attack line, or combination of these)?

Additional Learning: Read [Lindberg Village fire: Five homes destroyed in West Lafayette](#) (Wilkins & Bangert, 2019) and watch the related [incident video](#) (Carter, 2019) and incident drone video (Oliver, 2019). What were the similarities and differences between the Phoenix, Arizona and West Lafayette, Indiana incidents.

Get out in your response area and identify areas with potential for fire spread to multiple structures resulting in a group fire or conflagration. Consider fire spreading from wildland to structures as well as fire spreading from structure to structure in a suburban or urban environment? What critical factors are likely to influence the potential for this type of fire incident? In addition to fixed factors related to terrain, arrangement, and building construction, identify variable factors such as temperature, relative humidity, and wind.

Conduct a tactical walk around and identify strategic and tactical options for dealing with a rapidly developing fire involving multiple structures at this specific location. Consider access, egress (civilian evacuation routes), water supply, staging area location(s), and potential resource requirements. Identify potential defensive cutoff points (particularly when you cannot confine the fire to the buildings currently involved).

References

- Carter, A. (2019). [Lindberg Village subdivision, fire video]. Retrieved July 14, 2024, from <https://bit.ly/3zGYcqi>.
- Google. (2022a). [Street view 4219 W. Citrus Way, Phoenix, AZ]. Retrieved July 14, 2024, from <https://bit.ly/3zIUg8w>.
- Google. (2022b). [Street view 4219 W. Citrus Way, Phoenix, AZ]. Retrieved July 14, 2024, from <https://bit.ly/3VZpyzr>.
- Google. (2022c). [Street view 4219 W. Citrus Way, Phoenix, AZ]. Retrieved July 14, 2024, from <https://bit.ly/3xXfj6E>.
- Google. (2024a). [Map, 4219 W. Citrus Way, Phoenix, AZ]. Retrieved July 14, 2024, from <https://bit.ly/3y1WsqY>.
- Google. (2024b). [Aerial view 4219 W. Citrus Way, Phoenix, AZ]. Retrieved July 14, 2024, from <https://bit.ly/4d3B7fT>.
- Google. (2024c). [3d aerial view 4219 W. Citrus Way, Phoenix, AZ]. Retrieved July 14, 2024, from <https://bit.ly/3W63Nhc>.
- Oliver, T. (2019). *Viewer Submitted Drone video of Lindberg fire*. Retrieved July 14, 2024, from <http://bit.ly/2OFUCVz>.
- OnScene TV. (2024). *3 Houses Burn in Phoenix* [video]. Retrieved July 14, 2024, from <https://bit.ly/4d1RcTo>
- Weather Underground (2024). *Phoenix, AZ weather history* [historical weather June 2, 2024]. Retrieved July 14, 2024, from <https://bit.ly/3W66dwi>.
- Wilkins, R. & Bangert, D. (2019). *Lindberg Village fire: Five homes destroyed in West Lafayette*. Retrieved July 14, 2024, from <http://bit.ly/33ch7V6>.