



In-Station Training

TM 24-41 Residential Fire



Author

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Purpose

Firefighting operations in vacant buildings present significant risk due to deteriorated structural conditions resulting from age, lack of maintenance, and in some cases previous fires. Vacant homes may also be used by people who are homeless, presenting a variable and unknown life-hazard under fire conditions.

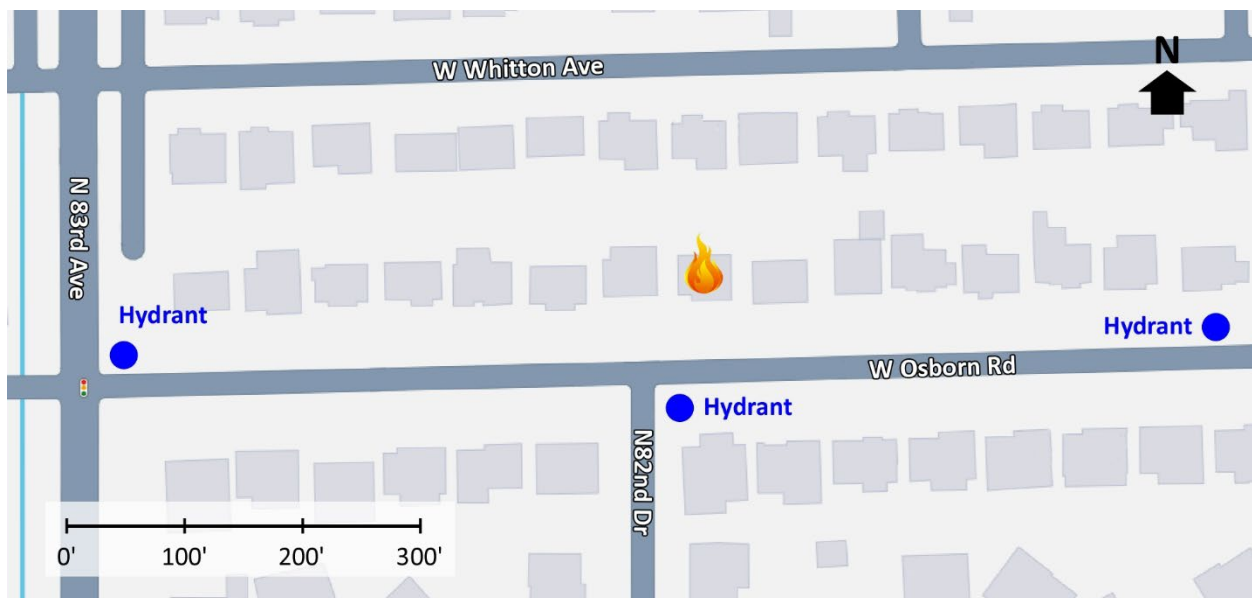
Learning Outcomes

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 8214 W. Osborn Road, Phoenix, Arizona on September 10, 2024 at 05:45 (On Scene TV, 2024 & Koch, 2024). 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, 8214 W. Osborn Road, Phoenix, AZ]. <https://bit.ly/4dnQqzI>.

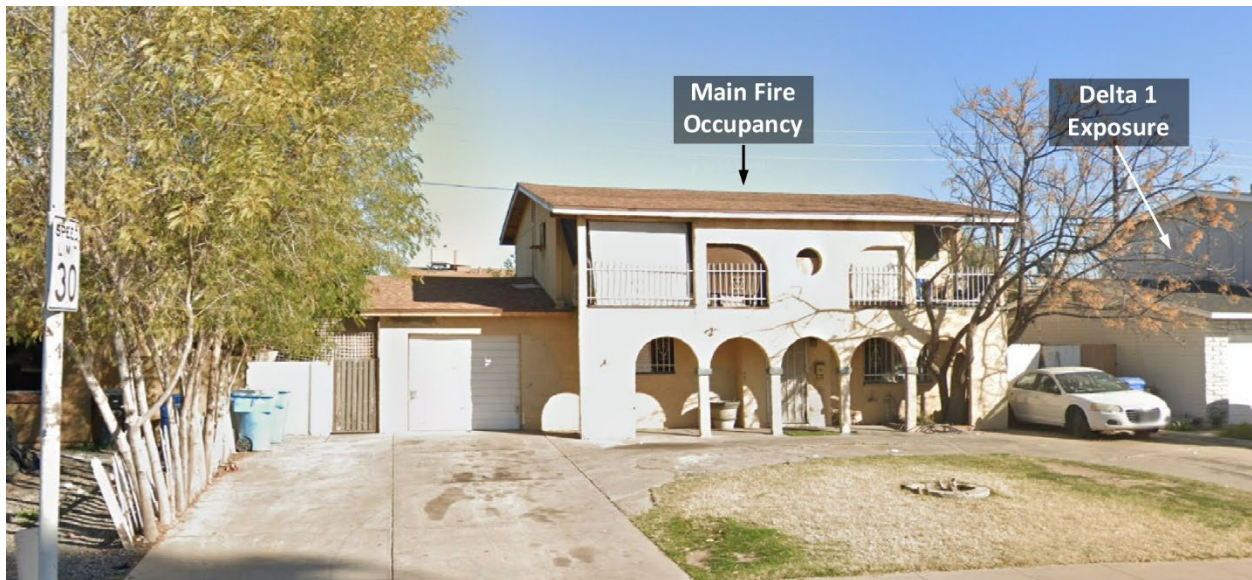
Figure 2. Aerial View



Note: Adapted from Google. (2024b). [Aerial view 8214 W. Osborn Road, Phoenix, AZ].
<https://bit.ly/4dnQOOG>.

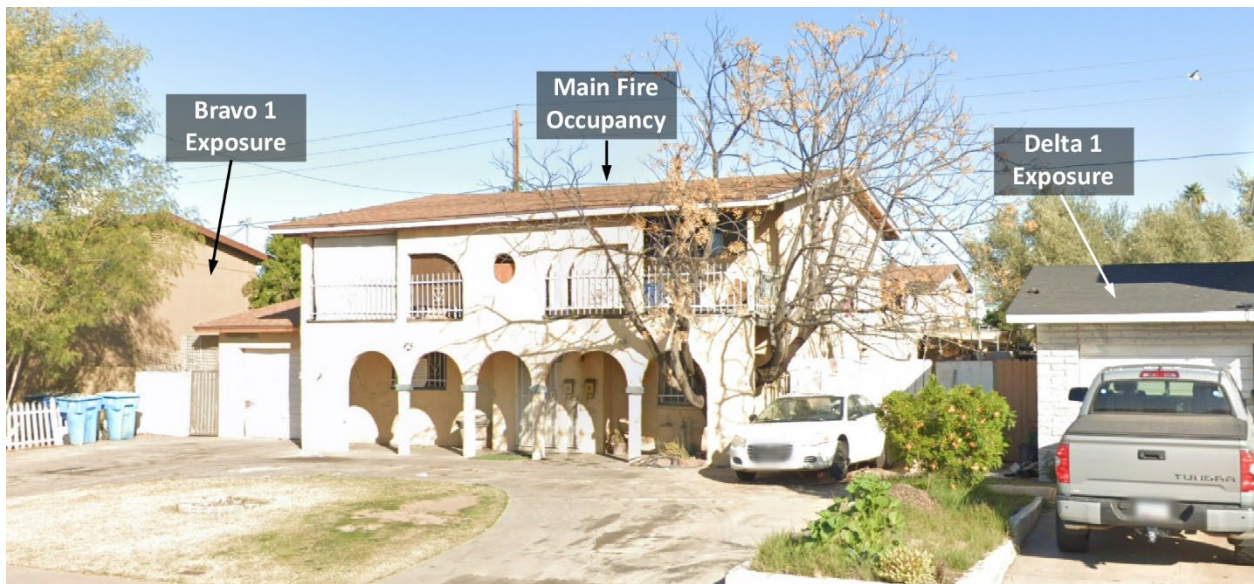
The closest hydrant is located across West Osborn Road from the Main Fire Occupancy and additional hydrants are located on West Osborn Road to the east and west of the incident location as illustrated in Figure 1.

Figure 3. Side Alpha



Note: Adapted from Google. (2023a). [Street view 8214 W. Osborn Road, Phoenix, AZ].
<https://bit.ly/3zETfyt>.

Figure 4. Alpha/Delta Corner



Note: Adapted from Google. (2023b). [Street view 8214 W. Osborn Road, Phoenix, AZ].
<https://bit.ly/4eFuyBO>.

Figure 5. Side Charlie



Note: Adapted from Google. (2024c). [3d aerial view 8214 W. Osborn Road, Phoenix, AZ].
<https://bit.ly/4eHYtbK>.

The temperature is currently 85° F with wind from the east southeast at 3 mph (Weather Underground, 2024). You have been dispatched at 05:45 to 8214 W. Osborn Road 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 West Osborn Road. The second engine will arrive from the same 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.

Watch the [incident video](#) (On Scene TV, 2024) from 00:18 to 00:32 and examine Figure 6 illustrating conditions on arrival.

Figure 6. Conditions on Arrival Side Bravo



Note: Adapted from On Scene TV. (2024). *Raging house fire In West Phoenix*. <https://bit.ly/4do3Hbl>.

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 would you give your crew?

You have previously noticed that this building was vacant (and had been for some time). However, when you arrive, there is a car in the driveway. Bystanders are unable to provide any information about occupants. Access to Side Charlie is blocked by a fence and a large accumulation of debris on Side Delta and by fire conditions on Side Bravo.

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 on West Osborne Road at North 83rd 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 (On Scene TV, 2024) from 00:32 to 02:00 before answering the next question.

14. The first arriving engine at this incident operated in an offensive strategy and stretched a 1 ¾" attack line through the door on Side Alpha. Was this consistent with your initial incident action plan? What factors impacted your choice for the initial attack position and water application method (small attack line, large attack line, master stream)?

Watch the incident video (On Scene TV, 2024) from 02:00 to 04:00 before answering the next question.

15. The 1 ¾" attack line stretched through the door on Side Alpha is repositioned to the exterior on Side Delta and additional 1 ¾" attack lines are stretched and operated to protect Exposure Bravo 1 and for fire control in the Main Fire Occupancy. Were these lines effective in accomplishing these objectives? Why or why not?

Additional Learning: Watch the Underwriters Laboratories Fire Safety Research Institute (UL FSRI) [Hose Stream Mechanics-Exterior Fire Suppression](#) video and use the [lesson plan](#) for this topic to guide a discussion about effective exterior water application with your crew. Discuss how water distribution is impacted when the ceiling and other compartment linings are not intact, when the building has a suspended ceiling, or there are obstructions. Consider how these considerations could have impacted the effectiveness of water application this incident?

References

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