



In-Station Training

TM 24-50 Apartment Fire



Author

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Purpose

Vehicle fires in garages under apartment buildings have risk of extension to residential units and present a significant life-risk to occupants.

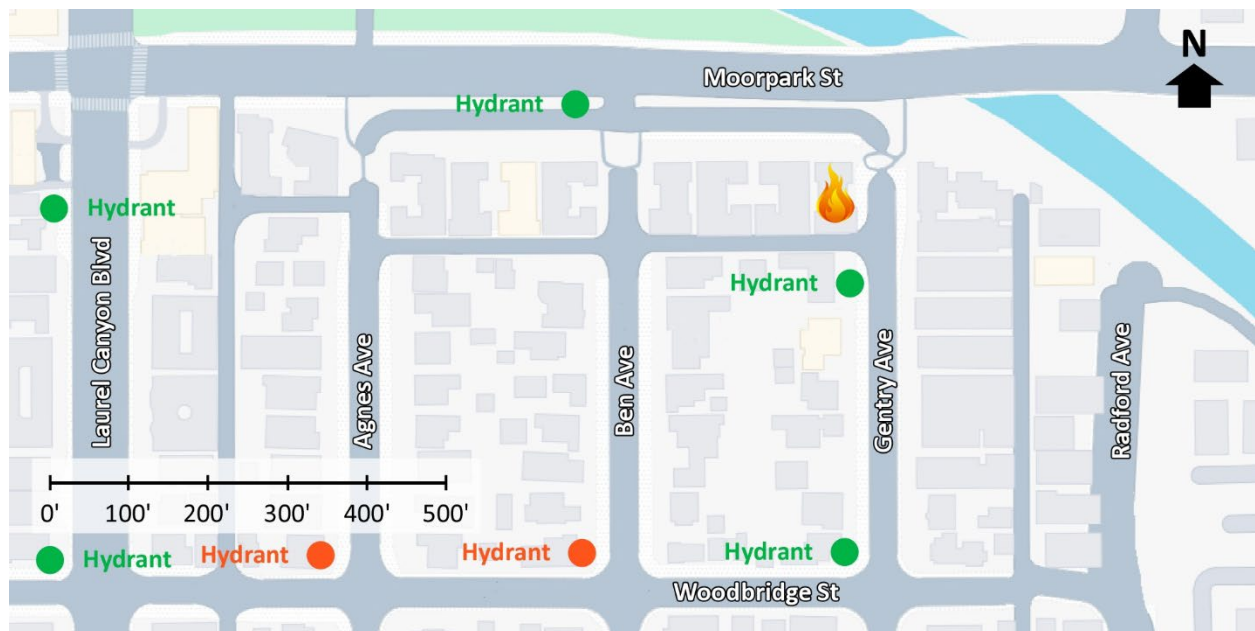
Learning Outcomes

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 vehicle fire with extension to other vehicles and an apartment complex at 11954 Moorpark Street in Studio City, California on Sunday, June 2, 2024, at 03:55 (Key News Network, 2024 & Salem, 2024). Review the map and photos (Figures 1-7) to gain an understanding of the area and building involved.

Figure 1. Map of the Incident Area



Note: Adapted from Google. (2024a). [Map, 11954 Moorpark Street, Studio City, CA].

<https://bit.ly/4f8CuLv>.

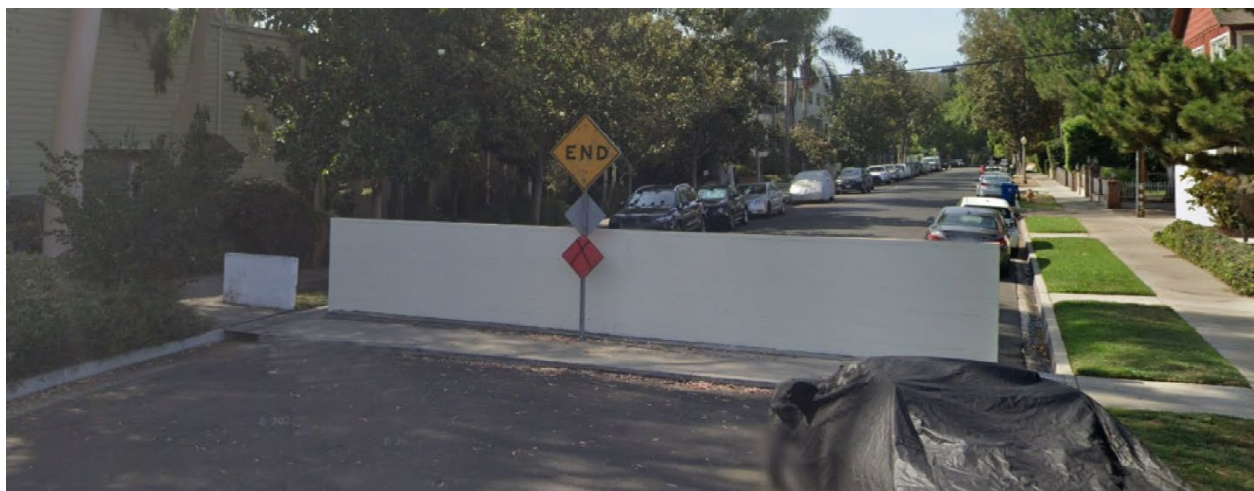
Figure 2. Aerial View



Note: Adapted from Google. (2024b). [Aerial view 11954 Moorpark Street, Studio City, CA].
<https://bit.ly/40uNRJc>.

The address of the apartment complex on Moorpark Street, but the main entrances face Gentry Avenue. Gentry Avenue is permanently blocked by a low concrete wall at Moorpark Street. The closest hydrant is at the corner of Gentry Avenue and the unnamed alley (Alpha/Bravo Corner). Additional hydrants are in the area as illustrated in Figure 1.

Figure 3. Moorpark Street & Gentry Avenue



Note: Adapted from Google. (2022a). [Street view 11954 Moorpark Street, Studio City, CA].
<https://bit.ly/4f8c9gT>.

Figure 4. Alpha/Bravo Corner



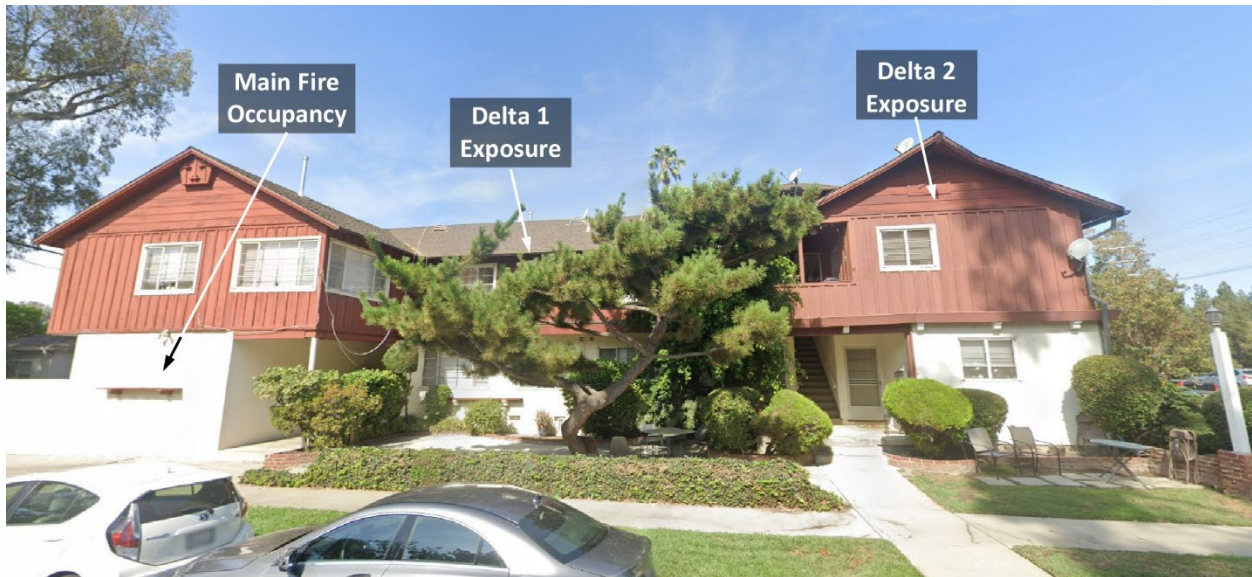
Note: Adapted from Google. (2022b). [Street view 11954 Moorpark Street, Studio City, CA]. <https://bit.ly/3NQ0Pdh>.

Figure 5. Bravo/Charlie Corner



Note: Adapted from Google. (2022c). [Street view 11954 Moorpark Street, Studio City, CA]. <https://bit.ly/3AdRZTu>.

Figure 6. Side Alpha



Note: Adapted from Google. (2022d). [Street view 11954 Moorpark Street, Studio City, CA]. <https://bit.ly/4fa6oPH>.

Figure 7. Side Delta



Note: Adapted from Google. (2022e). [Street view 11954 Moorpark Street, Studio City, CA]. <https://bit.ly/40yb5hS>.

The temperature is currently 59° F with wind from the south southeast at 6 mph (Weather Underground, 2024). You have been dispatched on a Sunday in June at 03:55 to 11954 Moorpark Street for a vehicle fire under an apartment complex. 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 Moorpark Street. 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.

While enroute, dispatch reports multiple vehicles on fire in the apartment building carport. Watch the first 00:20 of the [incident video](#) (Key News Network, 2024) and examine Figure 8, illustrating conditions on arrival.

Figure 8. Conditions on Arrival (Alpha/Bravo Corner)



Note: Adapted from Key News Network. (2024). *Raging multi-vehicle fire spreads to Studio City apartment building* [video]. <https://bit.ly/3Ceij6T>.

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?

There are multiple bystanders and occupants outside, but they are uncertain if everyone evacuated from the building. There is smoke from the eaves on Side Bravo. No smoke is visible from Delta 1 and 2 Exposures.

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 at Moorpark Street and Laurel Canyon Boulevard. 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 unit above the carport and other units in the building were 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 the incident video, it appears that a truck company arrived on Moorpark Street prior to an engine arriving on Gentry Avenue. Watch the [incident video](#) (Key News Network, 2024) from 02:20 to 05:30 before answering the next several questions.

14. How did you approach getting quick water on the fire (given your arrival on Moorpark Street and the obstruction at the intersection of Moorpark Street and Gentry Avenue)? Think about the task level actions you would assign your crew.

15. If you arrived on Gentry Avenue (rather than on Moorpark Street), how would you have approached getting quick water on the fire? Think about the task level actions you would assign your crew.

16. How could the first arriving engine at this incident have speeded water on the fire?

17. How did you prioritize primary search of the unit directly above the fire? Did this factor into your assignment of Engine 2 or needs identified in the transfer of command conditions, actions, and needs (CAN) report given to Chief 1?

Additional Learning: Discuss efficiency of engine company operations with your crew. Examine the role of each member of the crew (based on your own staffing level). Consider the task level actions required by each member to ensure quick water on the fire and a sustained water supply. In this incident the apparatus operator engine arriving on Gentry Avenue (and another firefighter) focused on establishing water supply from the hydrant before attack lines were stretched and placed into operation. How could this have impacted the time to get effective water on the fire?

Get out and stretch some hose! Identify 1) how long it takes for the apparatus operator to take a hydrant 75' behind the apparatus, and 2) time to accomplish this task when the hydrant is 175' behind the apparatus. Consider the sequence of operations and how this impacts time to completion. For example, if the apparatus operator connects the supply line to the apparatus before stretching hose to the hydrant, they can charge the supply line as soon as connections are made. If they stretch to the hydrant first, charging the supply line requires travel back to the apparatus to make connections and then back to the hydrant to charge the supply line (increasing time to completion).

References

Google. (2022a). [Street view 11954 Moorpark Street, Studio City, CA]. Retrieved November 4, 2024, from <https://bit.ly/4f8c9gT>,

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