



# In-Station Training

## TM 25-01 Residential Fire



### Author

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### Purpose

Effectively using the strategic decision-making model requires that incident commanders be able to recognize cues, patterns, and anomalies related to the incident's critical fireground factors and anticipate changes in conditions and the impact of tactical operations.

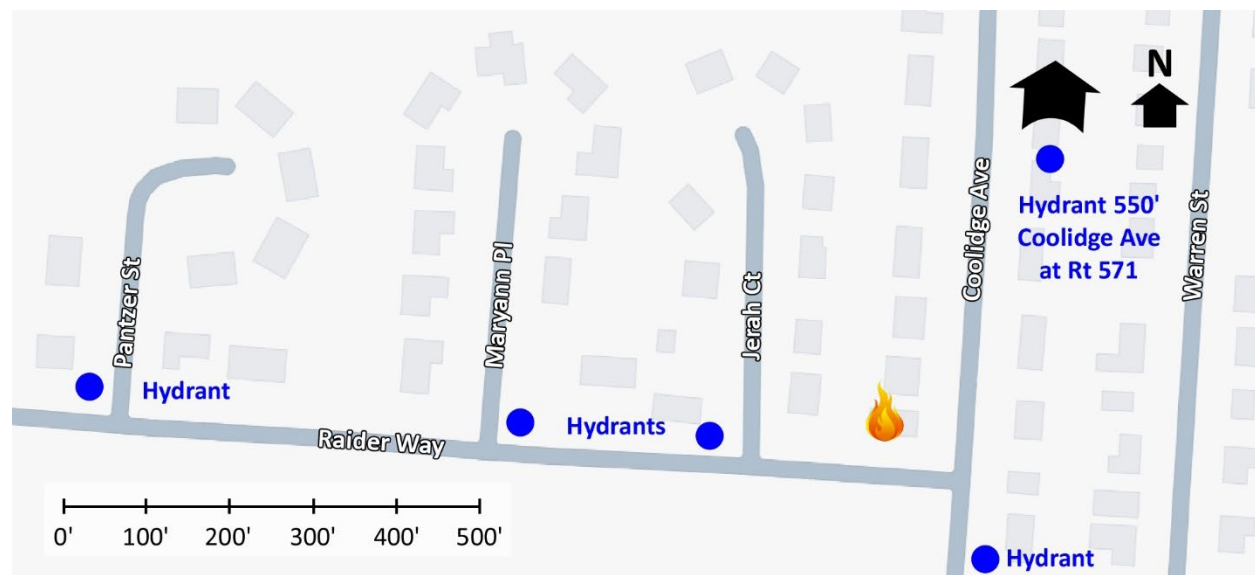
### Learning Outcomes

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 774 Coolidge Avenue in Toms River, New Jersey on Sunday, November 10, 2024, at 15:46 (Demonracer2, 2024; Philly FireFeed, 2024, & Daily Voice, 2024). Review the map and photos (Figures 1-6) to gain an understanding of the area and building involved.

Figure 1. Map of the Incident Area



Note: Adapted from Google. (2024a). [Map, 774 Coolidge Avenue, Toms River, NJ].

<https://bit.ly/3AVuwGM>.

Figure 2. Aerial View



Note: Adapted from Google. (2024b). [Aerial view 774 Coolidge Avenue, Toms River, NJ].  
<https://bit.ly/410oBL5>.

The closest hydrant is just south of the incident location on Coolidge Avenue. Additional hydrants are in the area as illustrated in Figure 1.

Figure 3. Alpha/Delta Corner



Note: Adapted from Google. (2022a). [Street view 774 Coolidge Avenue, Toms River, NJ].  
<https://bit.ly/3YUOGJ2>.

Figure 4. Alpha/Bravo Corner



*Note:* Adapted from Google. (2022b). [Street view 774 Coolidge Avenue, Toms River, NJ].  
<https://bit.ly/3ZODURG>.

Figure 5. Side Bravo



*Note:* Adapted from Google. (2022c). [Street view 774 Coolidge Avenue, Toms River, NJ].  
<https://bit.ly/3OmrBUh>.

Figure 6. Charlie/Delta Corner



Note: Adapted from Realtor.com. (2011). 774 Coolidge Ave, Toms River, NJ 08753.

<https://bit.ly/4fEM3SH>.

The temperature is currently 54° F with wind from the south at 6 mph (Weather Underground, 2024). It is Sunday November 10<sup>th</sup>, and you have been dispatched along with two other engines, ladder company, medic unit, and command officer at 15:46 to 774 Coolidge Avenue for a residential fire. The engines and ladder have four-person staffing<sup>1</sup>. You are the company officer or AIC of the first arriving engine.



Time starts now! Answer the first eight questions within the next 10 minutes. Decide and put your answers in the form of communication you would have with your crew, other companies, and the first arriving command officer. Save discussion for after answering the first eight questions.

1. What critical factors would you consider when dispatched and during response? What conversations would you have with your crew during response?

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<sup>1</sup> If your first alarm deployment is different, use your own resource assignment and staffing with the first and second arriving resources typical for your agency (e.g., two engines vs. engine and ladder).

You hear a command officer, two other engines, a ladder company, an advanced life support ambulance go enroute. You will arrive from the north on Coolidge Avenue. The ladder company will arrive from the south on Coolidge Avenue four minutes after you arrive. The second engine will arrive from the north five minutes after you. The command officer will arrive shortly after the second engine and ladder company. All other units dispatched on the first alarm will arrive after the command officer.

While enroute, dispatch advises that law enforcement reports a working fire with flames blowing out the front window. Watch the [incident video](#) (Demonracer2, 2024) from 02:10 to 02:40 and examine Figure 7, illustrating conditions on arrival.

Figure 7. Conditions on Arrival



*Note: Adapted from Demonracer2. (2024). Pre arrival working house fire Toms River NJ 11-10-24 [video]. <https://bit.ly/3OtPz6l>*

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?

An adult female occupant with her young son and daughter meets you in front of the house as you exit the engine and tell you that the fire is in a back bedroom and that everyone is out of the house.

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. Ladder 1 arrives and reports that they are Level 1 to the north. State the tactical assignment you would give them exactly as you would transmit it.
  
7. Engine 2 arrives and reports that they are Level 1 on a hydrant on Coolidge Avenue and Route 571. State the tactical assignment you would give them exactly as you would transmit it.
  
8. 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 one through eight before answering the next six questions. Give some thought to what cues, patterns, or anomalies (differences from conditions that you would anticipate) inform your answers.

9. What was the problem?
  
10. What was getting in the way of achieving your tactical priorities?
  
11. Was there anything in this incident that could have hurt or killed you (right now)?

12. Was it reasonable to believe that the Main Fire Occupancy was occupied?

13. Was there searchable space?

14. 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](#) (Demonracer2, 2024) from 02:40 to 05:40 before answering the next several questions.

15. What stage(s) fire development (incipient, growth, fully developed, or decay) and burning regime (fuel or ventilation limited) do you think were present inside the building when you arrived? What building, smoke, air track, heat, and flame (B-SAHF) indicators lead you to your understanding?

16. The first arriving engine stretched through the door on Side Alpha. Given the access to the building and likely layout and configuration of the interior what were the advantages and disadvantages of this tactical approach (versus making a quick hit and then stretching to the interior)? How would the staffing level of the first arriving engine impact this decision?

Examine Figure 8 which illustrates conditions at 04:52 in the [incident video](#) (Demonracer2, 2024) before answering the next question.

Figure 8. Conditions as the First Line is Stretched



Note: Adapted from Demonracer2. (2024). *Pre arrival working house fire Toms River NJ 11-10-24* [video]. <https://bit.ly/3OtPz6l>

17. It does not appear that the door control was maintained while stretching the line to the fire compartment. How would the change in ventilation resulting from an open front door potentially influence fire development? While this did not result in an adverse outcome in this incident, what changes in circumstances could potentially present a problem for the company stretching the line?
  
18. How did you address primary search? Did you assign a company to search with or without an attack line? Did you specify the point of entry for search? If not, how did you anticipate the search company would have accessed the building? What critical factors influenced your decisions related to search?
  
19. What would be the most effective tactical approach for post fire control ventilation? Why?



**Additional Learning:** Watch [Interior Fire Attack Utilizing Door Control](#) (LACoFD, 2020). There are several caveats to the information provided in the video. Application of water to the door and watching for return of water when a straight stream is applied to the ceiling as a temperature check may not be effective. Recognize that an insulated door may mask temperature conditions on the interior. In addition, water applied to the ceiling with a straight stream will almost always provide return due to limited evaporation of large droplets and stream density. Use of a thermal imaging camera (TIC) is a more effective way to assess temperature conditions.

Discuss how you can accomplish door control and fire attack with your typical staffing level. Consider how you can accomplish this task as a single company and how an on-deck company can assist with door control and hose deployment.

Get out and stretch some hose! Practice integration of door control and attack line deployment. If a forcible entry prop is available, integrate forcing the door, door control, and attack line deployment.

## References

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- Demonracer2. (2024). *Pre arrival working house fire Toms River NJ 11-10-24* [video]. Retrieved December 4, 2024, from <https://bit.ly/3OtPz6l>.
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