



# In-Station Training

## TM 25-09 Vehicle into Building and Commercial Fire



### Author

Chief Ed Hartin

### Purpose

High impact vehicle collisions, structural collapse, and fires in commercial buildings each present a significant tactical challenge. In high impact vehicle versus building incidents resulting in a fire, these challenges intersect presenting a complex set of critical factors impacting fire control, search, structural stabilization, access to injured patients, and extrication.

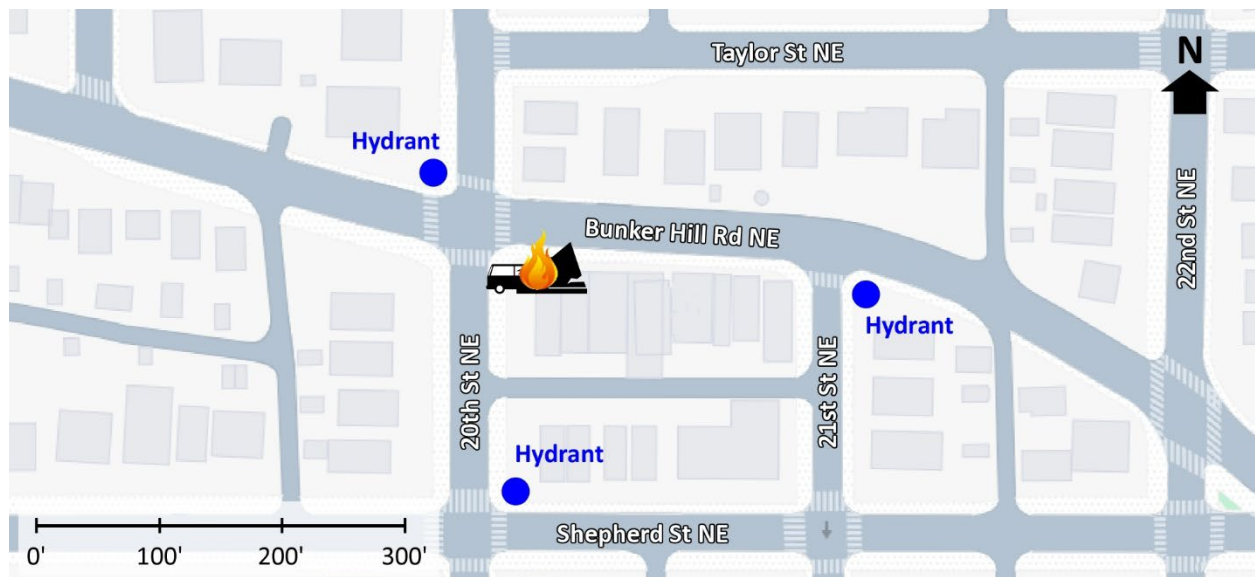
### Learning Outcomes

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 crash into a building and commercial fire at 2001 Bunker Hill Road NE, Washington, DC, on Thursday, December 26, 2024, at 07:45 (DC Fire and EMS, 2024 & Rosenthal & Sanchez-Cruz, 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, 2001 Bunker Hill Road NE, Washington, DC].

<https://bit.ly/4fym66t>.

Figure 2. Aerial View



Note: Adapted from Google. (2024b). [Aerial view 2001 Bunker Hill Road NE, Washington, DC]. <https://bit.ly/3Dy7AOU>.

The closest hydrant is located at Bunker Hill Road NE and 20<sup>th</sup> Street NE. There are additional hydrants in the area as illustrated in Figure 1.

Figure 3. Alpha/Delta Corner



Note: Adapted from Google. (2009a). [Street view 2001 Bunker Hill Road NE, Washington, DC]. <https://bit.ly/3PfvQTM>.

Figure 4. Side Delta



Note: Adapted from Google. (2022). [Street view 2001 Bunker Hill Road NE, Washington, DC].  
<https://bit.ly/4gJhvj6>.

Figure 5. Side Alpha



Note: Adapted from Google. (2009b). [Street view 2001 Bunker Hill Road NE, Washington, DC].  
<https://bit.ly/3PyRuHH>.

Figure 6. Bravo/Charlie Corner



Note: Adapted from Google. (2019). [Street view 2001 Bunker Hill Road NE, Washington, DC]. <https://bit.ly/3BAYW1D>.

The temperature is currently 35° F with wind from the north northeast at 8 mph (Weather Underground, 2024). **You are the company officer of an engine company.** It is Thursday, December 26<sup>th</sup>, and you have been dispatched along with two other engines, a ladder company, medic unit, and command officer at 07:05 to 2001 Bunker Hill Road NE for a vehicle into a commercial building and fire. The engines and ladder have four-person staffing<sup>1</sup>.



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?

---

<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, and an advanced life support ambulance go en route. Your engine will arrive first, approaching from the west on Bunker Hill Road NE. The ladder company will arrive from the same direction shortly after you. The second engine will arrive from the east two 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 responding, dispatch advises that they have multiple calls reporting a vehicle into a building with collapse and fire. Watch the [incident video](#) (DC Fire and EMS, 2024) from 00:05 to 00:20 and examine Figure 7, illustrating conditions on arrival.

Figure 7. Conditions on Arrival



*Note:* Adapted from DC Fire and EMS. (2024). *Woman trapped inside burning vehicle* [video]. <https://bit.ly/4iWu1xh>

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?

As you exit the apparatus, bystanders advise you that a car crashed into the building and caught fire. Approaching the building you can hear an occupant screaming for help and see her hand come out the back window of the vehicle.

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 advises that they are Level 1 at Bunker Hill Road NE and 19<sup>th</sup> Place NE, 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 to the east on Bunker Hill Road NE. 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 remainder of the [incident video](#) (DC Fire and EMS, 2024) before answering the next several questions.

15. Given the potential for secondary collapse, how did you address the need for fire control and rescue of the driver trapped in the vehicle? Was this like the approach taken by DC Fire and EMS or different? What critical factors influenced your decision-making?

16. The building was unoccupied at the time of the crash. However, if the building was occupied and you received a report of occupants that were unaccounted for, how would this have influenced your initial incident action plan?

**Additional Learning:** Read [Staying Safe at Structural Collapse Operations](#) (Lee, n.d.) and discuss the initial response to structural collapse with the members of your crew.

## References

DC Fire and EMS. (2024). *Woman trapped inside burning vehicle* [video]. Retrieved January 12, 2025, from <https://bit.ly/4iWu1xh>.

Google. (2009a). [Street view 2001 Bunker Hill Road NE, Washington, DC]. Retrieved January 12, 2025, from <https://bit.ly/3PfvQTM>.

Google. (2009b). [Street view 2001 Bunker Hill Road NE, Washington, DC]. Retrieved January 12, 2025, from <https://bit.ly/3PyRuHH>.

Google. (2019). [3d aerial view 2001 Bunker Hill Road NE, Washington, DC]. Retrieved January 12, 2025, from <https://bit.ly/3BAYW1D>.

- Google. (2022). [Street view 2001 Bunker Hill Road NE, Washington, DC]. Retrieved January 12, 2025, from <https://bit.ly/4gJhvj6>.
- Google. (2024a). [Map, 2001 Bunker Hill Road NE, Washington, DC]. Retrieved January 12, 2025, from <https://bit.ly/4fym66t>.
- Google. (2024b). [Aerial view 2001 Bunker Hill Road NE, Washington, DC]. Retrieved January 12, 2025, from <https://bit.ly/3Dy7AOU>.
- Lee, M. (n.d.) *Staying Safe at Structural Collapse Operations*. Retrieved January 12, 2025, from <https://bit.ly/3LdH3qv>.
- Rosenthal, S. & Sanchez-Cruz, R. (2024). 'It was the boom, then the blaze, then the smoke' | Driver seriously injured after crashing into DC building. Retrieved January 12, 2025, from <https://bit.ly/4afYwKX>.
- Weather Underground (2024). *Arlington, VA weather history* [historical weather December 26, 2024]. Retrieved January 12, 2025, from <https://bit.ly/3DOwUQN>.