



In-Station Training

TM 25-12a Residential Fire



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Purpose

Significant fire involvement and fire through the roof, with unknown presence of occupants presents a critical strategic decision should companies operate in an offensive or defensive strategy and if an offensive strategy is selected, what critical factors will influence the need for a strategic shift to defense>.

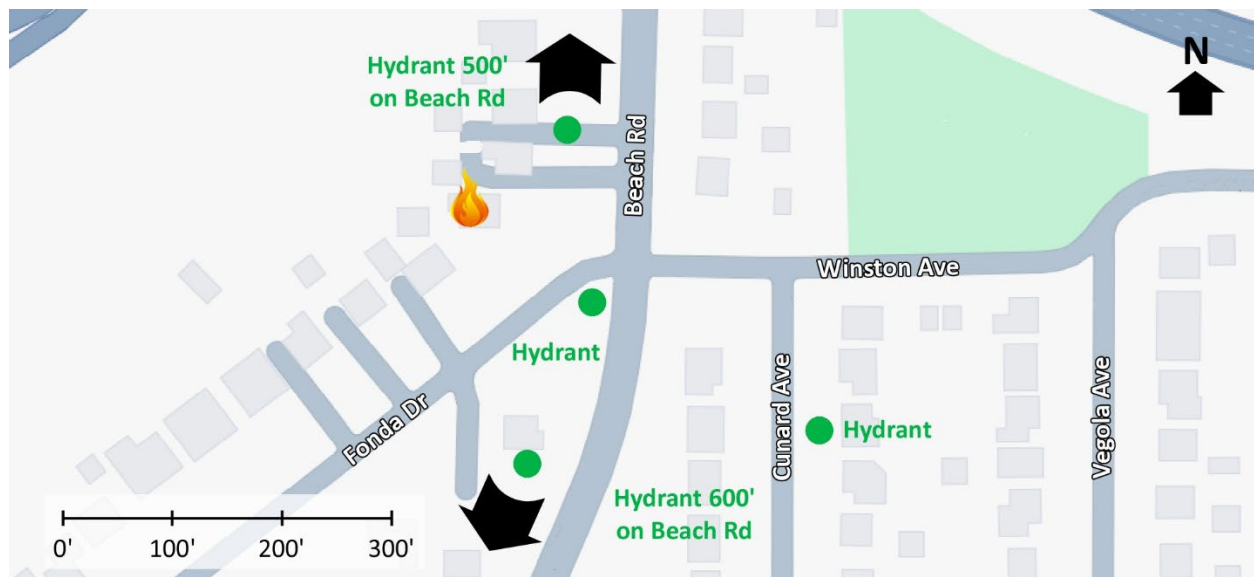
Learning Outcomes

Command officers perform effective ongoing 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 336 Beach Road, Cheektowaga, New York, Monday, December 9, 2024, at 02:22 (Fire Buff New York, 2024; WGRZ-TV, 2024; Cheektowaga Scanner, 2024; & Broadcastify, 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, 336 Beach Road, Cheektowaga, NY]. <https://bit.ly/3VwSVJQ>.

Figure 2. Aerial View



Note: Adapted from Google. (2024b). [Aerial view 336 Beach Road, Cheektowaga, NY].
<https://bit.ly/49t96Oh>.

The closest hydrant is at the intersection of Beach Road and Fonda Drive with additional hydrants in the area as illustrated in Figure 1.

Figure 3. Alpha/Bravo Corner



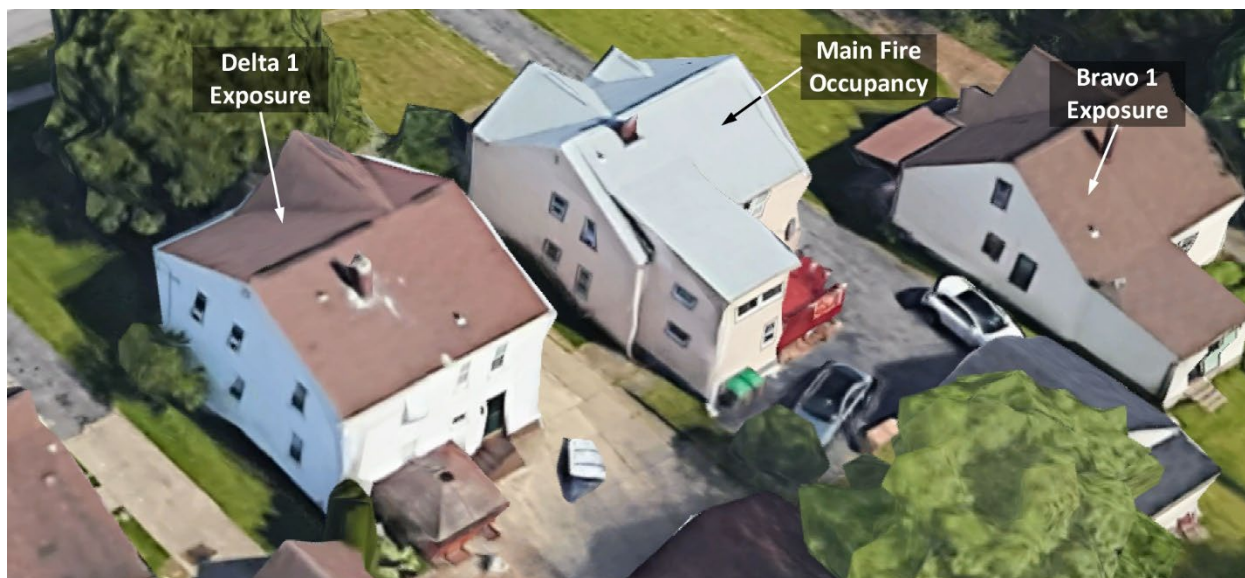
Note: Adapted from Google. (2024c). [Street view 336 Beach Road, Cheektowaga, NY].
<https://bit.ly/4axhmgB>.

Figure 4. Side Alpha



Note: Adapted from Zillow. (2024). 336 Beach Rd, Cheektowaga, NY 14225. <https://bit.ly/3EdTHFP>.

Figure 5. Charlie/Delta Corner



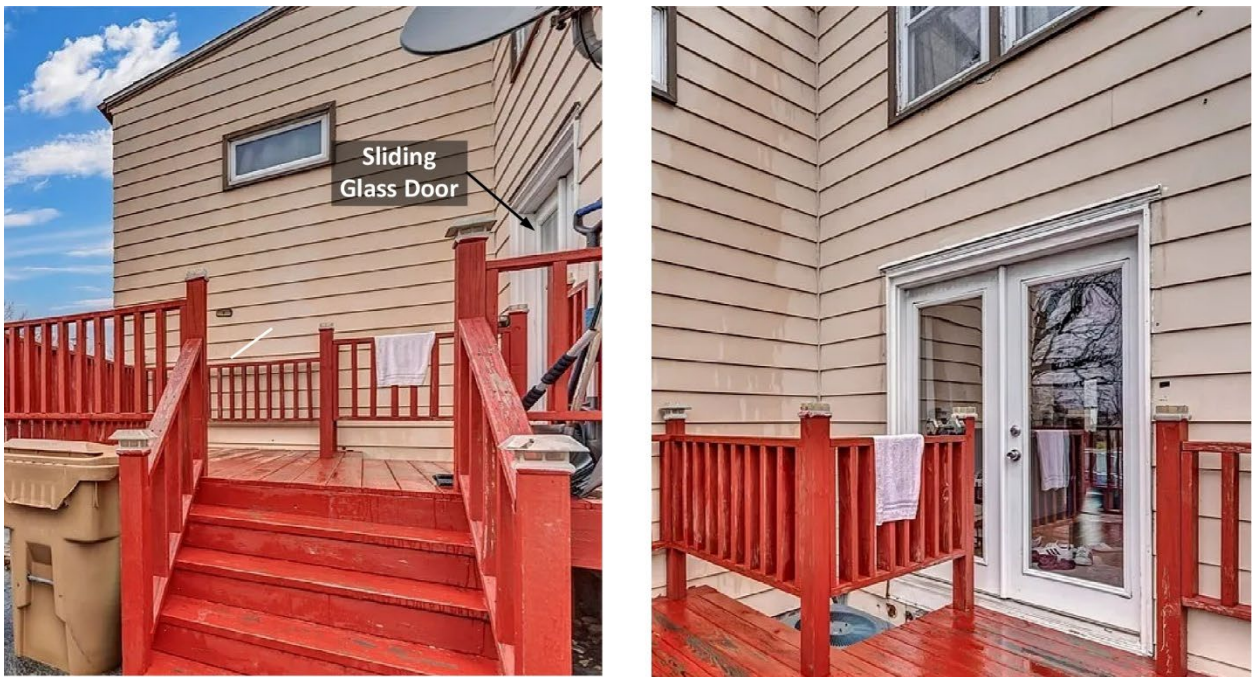
Note: Adapted from Google. (2024d). [3d aerial view 336 Beach Road, Cheektowaga, NY]. <https://bit.ly/3EaFs4y>.

Figure 6. Side Charlie



Note: Adapted Zillow. (2024). 336 Beach Rd, Cheektowaga, NY 14225. <https://bit.ly/3EdTHFP>.

Figure 7. Bravo/Charlie Corner



Note: Adapted Zillow. (2024). 336 Beach Rd, Cheektowaga, NY 14225. <https://bit.ly/3EdTHFP>.

The temperature is currently 38° F and wind is from the east at 7 mph (Weather Underground, 2024). It is Monday, December 9th, and you have been dispatched along with three engines, a ladder company,

and a medic unit, at 02:22 to 336 Beach Road for a residential fire. The engines and ladder have four-person staffing¹. You are responding to this incident as the first arriving command officer.



Time starts now! Answer the first eight questions within the next 10 minutes. After answering question 1, decide and put your answers in the form of communication you would have with the companies assigned to this incident. Save discussion for after answering the first eight questions.

1. What critical factors would you consider when dispatched and during response?

You hear three engines, a ladder company, and a medic unit go en route. The first engine will arrive from the south. The ladder company and second engine will arrive from the south three minutes after the first engine. **You will arrive from the south on Beach Road shortly after the second engine.** The remaining engine and medic unit will arrive after you.

Engine 1 arrives and provides the following initial radio report.

On-scene of a small, two-story house with a working fire on Floor 2 and the attic. Stretching an attack line through Side Bravo for fire control and primary search, on a hydrant, give me a 2nd alarm with Level 2 Staging at Winston Avenue and Vegola Avenue, Engine 1 is Beach Command.

The second alarm assignment is an additional three engines, ladder company, and command officer with the same staffing levels as the first alarm companies.

Beach Command provides the following follow-up report:

360 complete, two stories on all sides, walkup basement on Side Bravo, Exposure Delta 1 is a similar house, continuing offensive, Engine 1 is accountability on Side Alpha.

Ladder 1 arrives and reports that they are Level 1 to the south on Beach Road. Beach Command provides the following tactical assignment:

Position on the Alpha/Delta Corner, primary search on Floor 1.

¹ 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).

Engine 2 arrives and reports that they are Level 1 on a hydrant at Beach Road and Fonda Drive. Beach Command provides the following tactical assignment:

Stretch a second attack line off Engine 1, go on deck Side Alpha.

Watch the [incident video](#) from 01:00 to 01:15 and examine Figure 8 illustrating conditions on your arrival.

Figure 8. Conditions on Arrival



Note: Adapted from Fire Buff New York. (2024). 12/9/24-U-Crest working fire at 336 Beach Road [video]. <https://bit.ly/3ErgpKD>

2. What actions will you take prior to contacting IC #1 (Engine 1) to begin command transfer?
3. State your command transfer communication after IC #1 acknowledges your radio contact (exactly as you would transmit it).

Following your confirmation of the location and assignment of Engine 1 and request for a conditions, actions, and needs (CAN) report, IC #1 provides the following CAN:

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?

Unlike the scenario presented in this 10-Minute Training, in this incident the command officer arrived prior to the engine and ladder companies. Watch the entire [incident video](#) (Fire Buff New York, 2024) before answering the next several questions.

Within the context of the National Incident Management System “operations” is the section chief responsible for all tactical operations at the incident (typically supervising branches, and/or divisions and groups). In this incident, “operations” appears to be supervising companies operating in the hazard zone. At 00:31 in the incident video, “operations” calls command requesting a report on the condition of the roof (Fire Buff New York, 2024). At 02:28 “operations” reports water on the fire (Fire Buff New York, 2024). Based on the sound of these radio transmissions, it appears that “operations” is wearing a breathing apparatus. During this radio transmission, a vibralert (Scott SCBA end of life service time alarm) can be heard sounding.

15. How does working inside the hazard zone (rather than near the point of entry) impact the ability of a tactical supervisor to effectively manage assigned resources working in the hazard zone?

16. What action would you take based on hearing a low air alarm during a radio transmission from inside the hazard zone?

Due to structural compromise of the roof and extent of the fire on Floor 2 and in the attic, companies operating at this incident shifted to a defensive strategy. Two elevated master streams were used for defensive fire control as illustrated in Figure 9.

Figure 9. Defensive Operations



Note: Adapted from Lane, J. (2024). [Facebook post comment]. <https://bit.ly/42Fn6mm>.

17. In this incident, the incident commander proactively assigned ladder companies to position for ladder pipe operations prior to making a strategic shift to defense. How might this contingency planning have increased the efficiency of the strategic shift from offense to defense?

Additional Learning: Reading the building and anticipating interior layout and configuration are important skills for everyone operating on the fireground. In this incident, the door on Side Bravo had been kicked in prior to the arrival and the first line was stretched through this open door. Examine Figure 1o and give some thought as to what level of the house the door on Side Bravo provided access

to (Basement or Floor 1). What area of the house do you think the window on Side Bravo is in? What factors lead you to these assumptions?

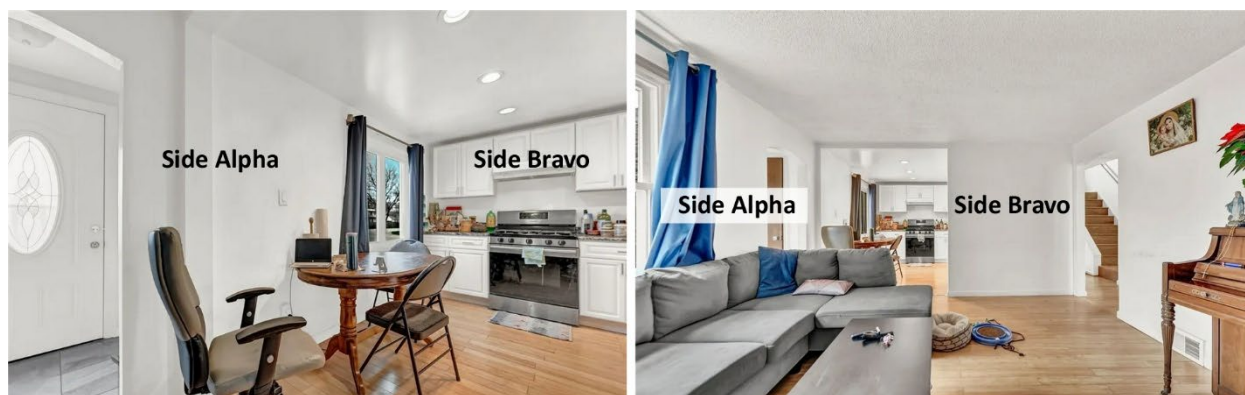
Figure 10. Alpha/Bravo Corner



Note: Adapted from Google. (2024c). [Street view 336 Beach Road, Cheektowaga, NY]. <https://bit.ly/4axhmgB>.

Examine Figure 11 illustrating the location of the interior stairs from Floor 1 to Floor 2.

Figure 11. Interior-Livingroom, Kitchen, and Stairway



Note: Adapted Zillow. (2024). 336 Beach Rd, Cheektowaga, NY 14225. <https://bit.ly/3EdTHFP>.

Does this inform your assumptions regarding the exterior door and window on Side Bravo? Where do you think the stairs between the Basement and Floor 1 are located? How would this have impacted the first arriving engine's hose stretch and time to water on the fire?

References

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