



# In-Station Training

## TM 25-20 Warehouse Fire-Mayday



### Author

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### Purpose

Fires in big box buildings present multiple challenges. Firefighters and fire officers must have a solid understanding of tactical operations in buildings with fixed fire protection systems such as automatic sprinklers and practiced skills in air management.

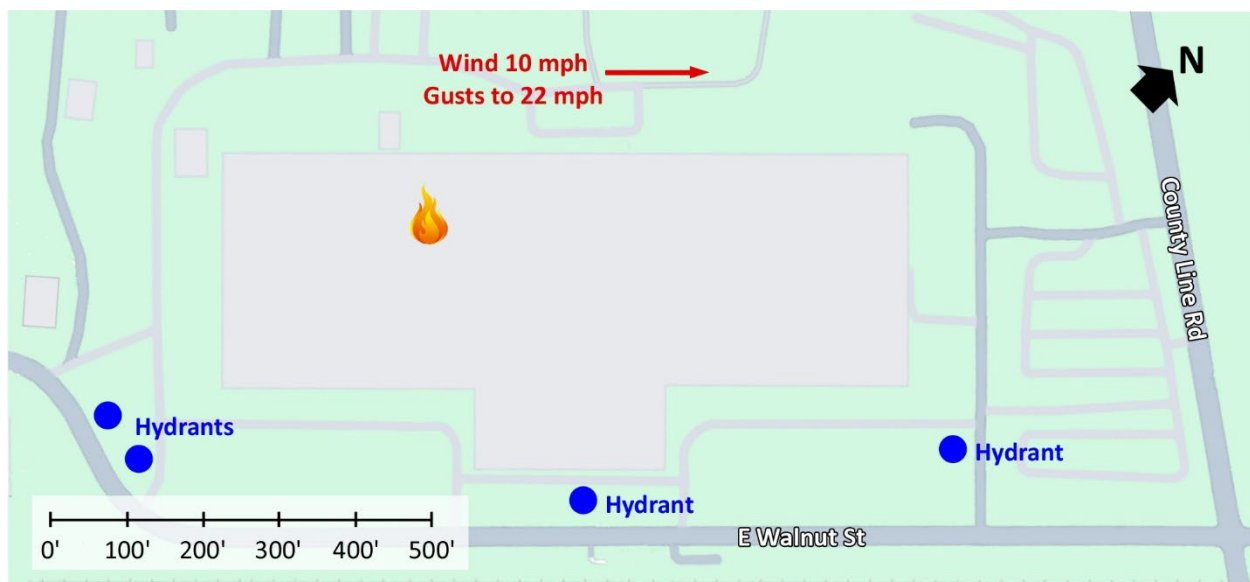
### Learning Outcomes

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

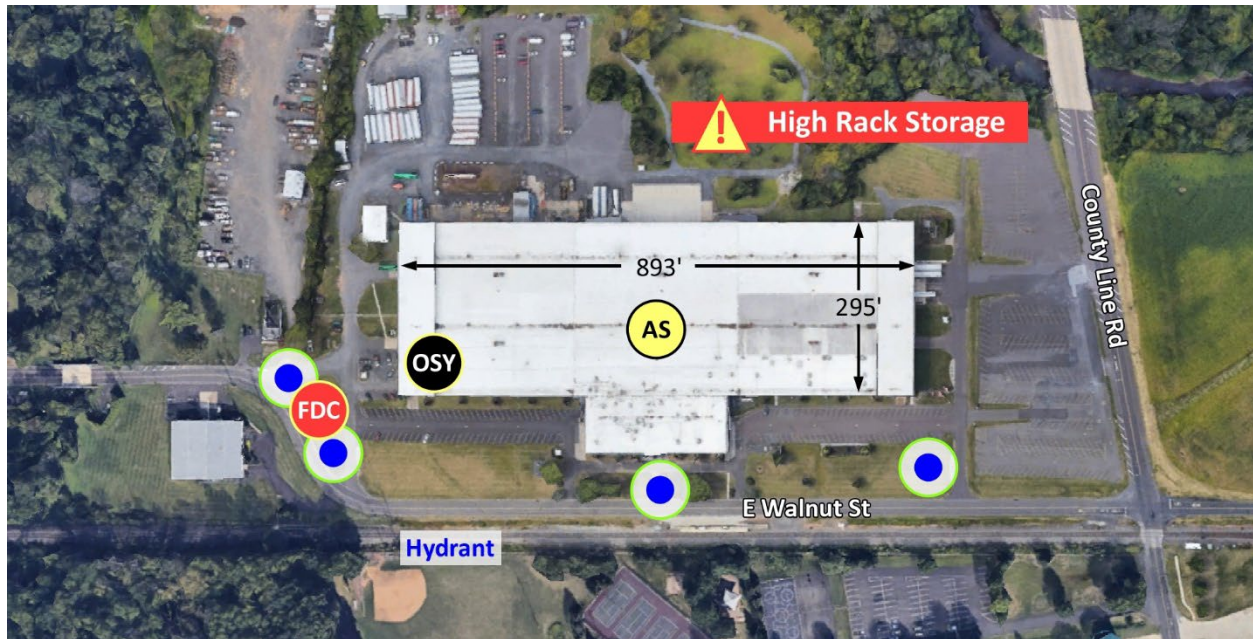
This incident involved a warehouse (big box) fire at Dorman Products, 3400 E Walnut Street in Colmar, Pennsylvania on November 5, 2024, at 13:30 (Di Domizio, 2024; Moyer & Pikora, 2024; & Tac4 Fireground Archives, 2024). Dorman Products is a manufacturer of aftermarket auto parts. Review the map and photos (Figures 1-10) to gain an understanding of the building and area involved.

Figure 1. Map of the Incident Area



Note: Adapted from Google. (2025a). [Map, 3400 E Walnut Street, Colmar, PA]. <https://bit.ly/4cCDXcC>.

Figure 2. Aerial View



Note: Adapted from Google. (2025b). [Aerial view 3400 E Walnut Street, Colmar, PA].  
<https://bit.ly/4cDiTmd>.

The closest hydrants are on the Alpha/Bravo Corner with additional hydrants located on Side Alpha and the Alpha/Delta Corner as illustrated in Figures 1 and 2.

Figure 3. Side Bravo



Note: Adapted from Google. (2023a). [Street view 3400 E Walnut Street, Colmar, PA].  
<https://bit.ly/3RW8HM3>.



Figure 4. Alpha/Bravo Corner



*Note:* Adapted from Google. (2023b). [Street view 3400 E Walnut Street, Colmar, PA].  
<https://bit.ly/4jMvRq>.

Figure 5. Side Alpha (Bravo End)



*Note:* Adapted from Google. (2023c). [Street view 3400 E Walnut Street, Colmar, PA].  
<https://bit.ly/3GjF19b>.

Figure 6. Side Alpha-Main Entrance



*Note:* Adapted from Google. (2023d). [Street view 3400 E Walnut Street, Colmar, PA].  
<https://bit.ly/3GgclOp>.

Figure 7. Alpha/Delta Corner



*Note:* Adapted from Google. (2023e). [Street view 3400 E Walnut Street, Colmar, PA].  
<https://bit.ly/3Gct854>.



Figure 8. Side Delta



Note: Adapted from Google. (2023f). [Street view 3400 E Walnut Street, Colmar, PA].  
<https://bit.ly/3Y8fPJ3>.

Figure 9. Side Charlie



Note: Adapted from Google. (2025c). [3d aerial view 3400 E Walnut Street, Colmar, PA].  
<https://bit.ly/3RqWclf>.

Figure 10. Side Charlie (Bravo End)



Note: Adapted from Google. (2025d). [3d aerial view 3400 E Walnut Street, Colmar, PA].

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

The temperature is currently 69° F with wind from the southwest at 10 mph with gusts to 22 mph (Weather Underground, 2024). **You are the company officer of an engine company.** It is Tuesday, November 5<sup>th</sup>, and you have been dispatched along with **four** other engines, **two** ladder companies, medic unit, and two command officers<sup>1</sup> at 13:30 to Dorman Products at 3400 E Walnut Street for a commercial fire. The engines and ladders have four-person staffing<sup>2</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.

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<sup>1</sup> Note that the deployment for a big box structure is five engines and two ladder companies due to the size of the building and resource requirements for safe and effective tactical operations. Additional alarms will each add the same resource deployment (i.e., second alarm will double the number of resources).

<sup>2</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).



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

You hear a command officer, four other engines, two ladder companies, and an advanced life support ambulance go en route. You will arrive first, approaching from the southwest on East Walnut Street. The first ladder company will arrive from the same direction shortly after you. The second engine will arrive from the northeast two minutes after the ladder company. 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 a caller reports a fire in the warehouse at Dorman Products with flames reaching the ceiling and spreading, they are attempting to evacuate. Dispatch then advises that they have received a pull station and water flow alarm from Dorman Products. Watch the first 00:24 of the [incident simulation video](#) (Hartin, 2025) and examine Figure 11, illustrating conditions on arrival. You are met by the responsible party, and they advise that the closest access to the fire is from the back of the building, pointing towards the roadway from Side Bravo to Side Charlie.

Figure 11. Conditions on Arrival



*Note:* Adapted from Hartin, E. (2025) *10-minute training 25-20 incident simulation* [Fire Studio 7 video]. <https://bit.ly/3RUETQ3>.

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?

Watch the [incident simulation video](#) (Hartin, 2025) from 00:26 to 00:39 and examine Figure 12, illustrating conditions on the Bravo End of Side Charlie.

Figure 12. Conditions on the Bravo End of Side Charlie



*Note:* Adapted from Hartin, E. (2025) *10-minute training 25-20 incident simulation* [Fire Studio 7 video]. <https://bit.ly/3RUETQ3>.

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 on East Walnut Street. 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 adjacent to the FDC at the southwest entrance to the facility. State the tactical assignment you would give them exactly as you would transmit it.

You entered through the open overhead door on the Bravo End of Side Charlie with an attack line and have advanced approximately 175'. Automatic sprinklers are operating but are having limited effect on the fire burning in the high rack storage. Watch the [incident simulation video](#) (Hartin, 2025) from 00:40 to 00:55 and examine Figure 13, illustrating conditions on interior.

Figure 13. Conditions on the Interior



*Note: Adapted from Hartin, E. (2025) 10-minute training 25-20 incident simulation [Fire Studio 7 video]. <https://bit.ly/3RUETQ3>.*

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?
- Listen to the first 10:00 of the [incident audio](#) (Tac4 Fireground Archives, 2024) before answering the next several questions. The incident audio has “dead air” removed and as such is not in real time.
15. The first arriving engine stretched a 2 ½” attack line through Side Charlie for fire control. Was this consistent with your initial action plan? What critical fireground factors influenced your choice of fire control tactics?



16. At 08:32 in the incident audio (Tac4 Fireground Archives, 2024) Battalion 2 reports “They have the FDC connected, do you need it charged?” Battalion 2 does not receive a response. Did you assign a company to support the sprinkler system by pumping to the fire department connection (FDC)? Why or why not?
  
17. A firefighter from Engine 17-1 became separated from the 2 ½” attack line that he was operating on with his crew and became lost somewhere towards the middle of the warehouse. State the mayday message that you would transmit if you contact with a member of your crew in this area of the building.

**Additional Learning:** Read the [Sample Big Box Fire & Sprinkler System Management SOG 9-2023](#) (Blue Card, 2023). How does this SOG compare with your agency’s SOG(s) for big box fires and/or operations in buildings with fixed fire protection systems? Review the Blue Card Sample SOG and/or your agency’s related SOGs with your crew and discuss how the work practices and procedures in the Blue Card Sample SOG and/or your agency’s related SOGs would have impacted incident operations at the Dorman Products fire.

Examination of this incident is continues in [10-Minute Training 25-20a for IC #2](#). The additional learning in 10-Minute Training 25-20a will focus on managing a mayday in a big box occupancy such as the Dorman Products warehouse.

## References

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