



In-Station Training

TM 25-25 Residential Fire



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Purpose

Vegetation fires between closely spaced residential occupancies can quickly threaten and extend to multiple exposures, requiring quick water on the fire and action to address extension to the interior of the exposures.

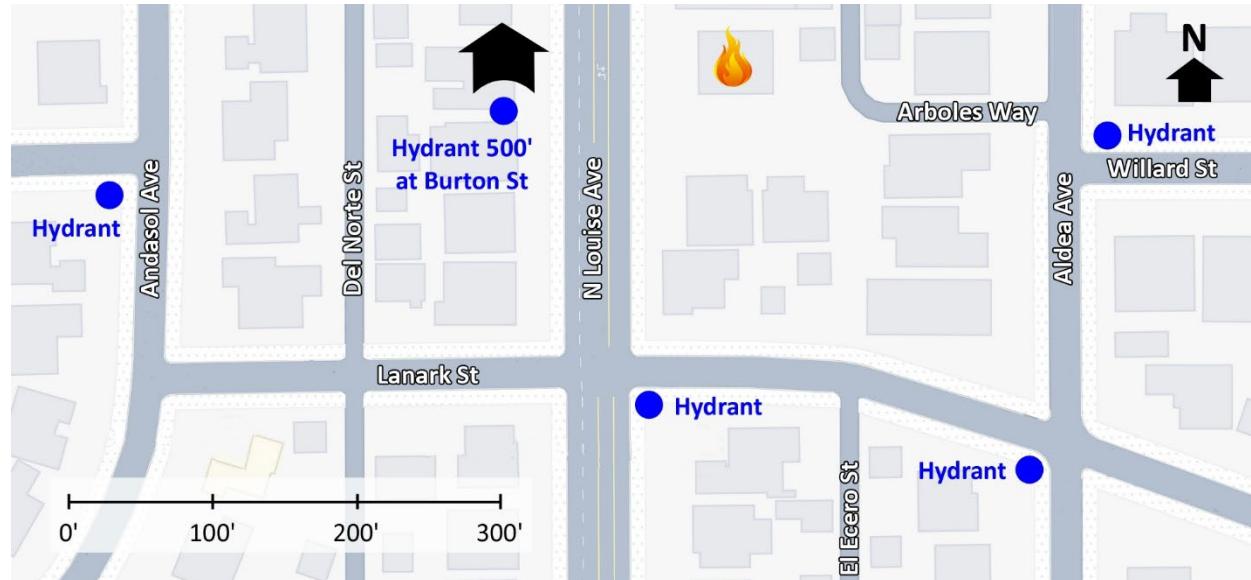
Learning Outcomes

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 8156 N Louise Ave, Lake Balboa (Los Angeles), California on Friday May 30, 2025, at 12:26 (Fuentes, 2025; LAFD, 2025; & Lindahl, 2025). Review the map and photos (Figures 1-6) to gain an understanding of the building and area involved.

Figure 1. Map of the Incident Area



Note: Adapted from Google. (2025a). [Map, 8156 N Louise Ave, Lake Balboa, CA]. <https://bit.ly/4e8f49B>.

Figure 2. Aerial View

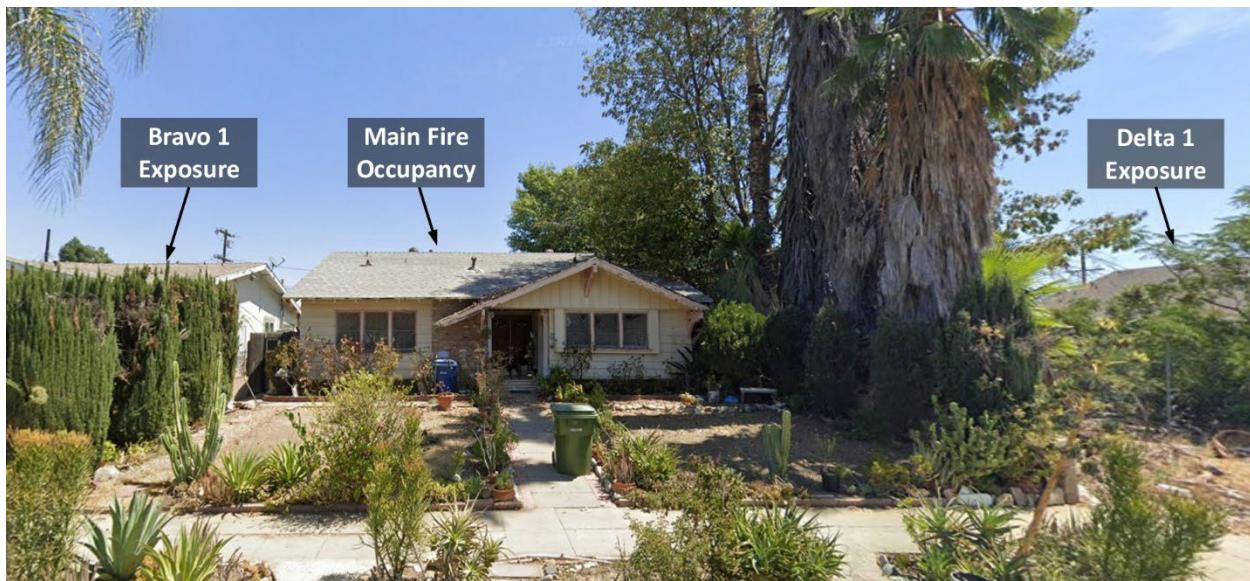


Note: Adapted from Google. (2025b). [Aerial view 8156 N Louise Ave, Lake Balboa, CA].

<https://bit.ly/43Oqz2p>.

The closest hydrant is at the intersection of North Louise Avenue and Lanark Street. In addition, there are other hydrants in the area as illustrated in Figure 1.

Figure 3. Side Alpha



Note: Adapted from Google. (2022a). [Street view 8156 N Louise Ave, Lake Balboa, CA].

<https://bit.ly/447kpcs>.

Figure 4. Alha/Bravo Corner-Exposure Bravo 1



Note: Adapted from Google. (2022b). [Street view 8156 N Louise Ave, Lake Balboa, CA].
<https://bit.ly/4lbNPx6>.

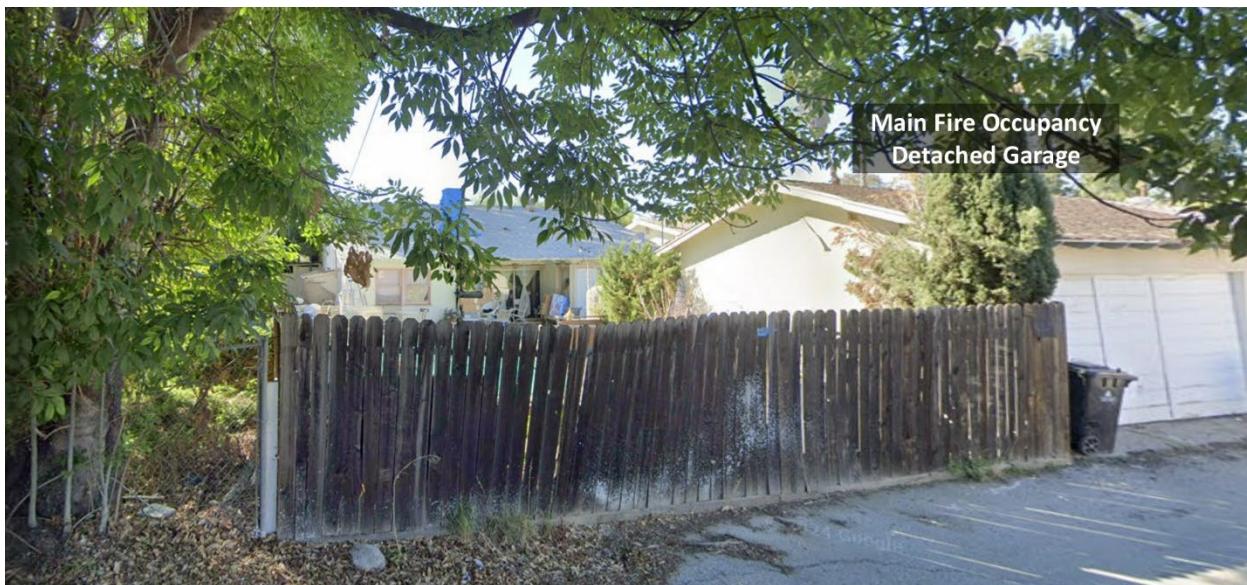
Figure 5. Exposure Delta 1



Note: Adapted from Google. (2022c). [Street view 8156 N Louise Ave, Lake Balboa, CA].
<https://bit.ly/4laWijY>.

As illustrated in Figure 6, the Main Fire Occupancy has a detached garage that is accessed from Arboles Way. A fence on Side Charlie provides a limited obstruction to access on Side Charlie.

Figure 6. Side Charlie (from Arboles Way)



Note: Adapted from Google. (2018). [Street view 8156 N Louise Ave, Lake Balboa, CA].

<https://bit.ly/4kUxM7i>.

The temperature is currently 86° F with wind from the west northwest at 3 mph (Weather Underground, 2025). **You are the company officer of an engine company.** It is Friday May 30th, and you have been dispatched along with two other engines, a ladder company, medic unit, and command officer to 8140 North Louise Avenue at 12:26 for a residential fire. The engines and ladder have four-person staffing¹.



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?

You hear a command officer, two other engines, a ladder company, and an advanced life support ambulance go en route. You will arrive first, approaching from the south on North Louise Avenue. The ladder company and second engine will arrive from the north several minutes after you. The command

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).

officer will arrive shortly after the second engine. All other units dispatched on the first alarm will arrive after the command officer.

While responding, the dispatcher advises that multiple callers are reporting a vegetation fire between the houses and that one of the houses is involved. Watch the [incident video](#) (Fuentes, 2025) from 00:30 to 01:00 and examine Figure 7, illustrating conditions on arrival.

On your arrival, you determine that the actual incident address is 8156 North Louise Avenue, just to the north of the reported address.

Figure 7. Conditions on Arrival



Note: Adapted from Adapted from Fuentes, R. (2025). Northridge house fire 05/31/2025 Roscoe/Louise St. <https://bit.ly/45v0XsK>.

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?

You are unable to access Side Delta due to the vegetation fire. There is a small volume of smoke on Side Bravo and conditions on Side Charlie are consistent with those on Side Alpha with dark smoke from the Delta end of the main fire occupancy. A swimming pool is located on Side Charlie (Charlie/Delta Corner).

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 advises that they are Level 1 at North Louise Avenue and Burton 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 at North Louise Avenue and Burton Street. State the tactical assignment you would give them exactly as you would transmit it.

Watch the [incident video](#) (Fuentes, 2025) from 05:55 to 06:55 and examine Figure 8 before answering the next question.

Figure 8. Changes in Conditions on Side Alpha



Note: Adapted from Adapted from Fuentes, R. (2025). Northridge house fire 05/31/2025 Roscoe/Louise St. <https://bit.ly/45v0XsK>.

8. Based on observed and 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](#) (Fuentes, 2025) from 01:05 to 07:00 before answering the next several questions.

15. In the actual incident, a medic unit arrived first. If the medic unit arrived before your engine, what would be your expectation of the actions that they would take?

16. The first arriving engine drove past the closest hydrant, went past the fire, turned around and laid a supply line back to the fire. What are potential reasons why this may have occurred? What alternatives could be used to reduce the time required to get effective water application on the fire?

17. The second arriving engine laid a supply line from the closest hydrant. Given the conditions encountered at this incident, what were the advantages and disadvantages of establishing a second water supply?

18. The resource deployment for the actual incident included seven engines, three ladder companies, two ambulances, and three battalion chiefs. How does this compare to your resource determination? What factors influenced your resource determination?

Additional Learning: Watch Fight exposure fires smarter like Sean Gray (Ep. 4) (TFT, 2025) with your crew. Discuss exposure protection with your crew and discuss when it may be appropriate to make a direct attack to remove the threat versus when it may be more effective to apply water to the exposure.

References

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