



In-Station Training

TM 25-32 Vehicle Accident Car vs Building



Author

Chief Ed Hartin

Purpose

High impact collisions and structural collapse can each present a significant tactical challenge. In high impact vehicle versus building incidents, these challenges intersect presenting a complex set of critical factors potentially impacting structural stabilization, access to injured patients, and extrication.

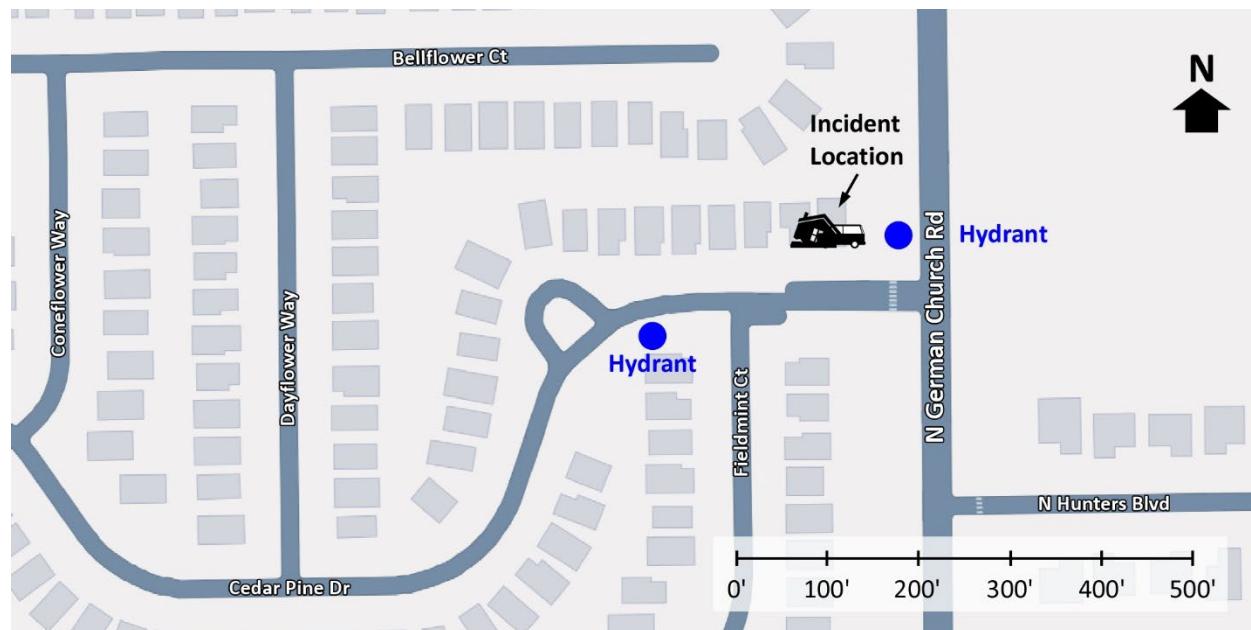
Learning Outcomes

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 accident with a car in a building at 10996 Cedar Pine Drive, Indianapolis, Indiana on Tuesday, June 24, 2025, at 15:20 (WHTR.com Staff, 2025 & IFD, 2025). Review the map and photos (Figures 1-5) to gain an understanding of the building and area involved.

Figure 1. Map of the Incident Area



Note: Adapted from Google. (2025a). [Map, 10996 Cedar Pine Drive, Indianapolis, IN].

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

Figure 2. Aerial View



Note: Adapted from Google. (2025b). [Aerial view 10996 Cedar Pine Drive, Indianapolis, IN].
<https://bit.ly/3IVy4fY>.

The closest hydrants are at the intersection of North German Church Road and Cedar Pine Drive and on Cedar Pine Drive just west of the incident location as illustrated in Figure 1.

An images of the incident occupancy viewed from Cedar Pine Drive are not available (blurred out in Google Street View). Figure 3 illustrates a similar building that is located at 10980 Cedar Pine Drive. Limited views of the main incident occupancy are provided in photos of the Bravo 1 Exposure which was also impacted by the vehicle involved in this incident.

Figure 3. Side Alpha (Similar House at 10980 Cedar Pine Drive)



Note: Adapted from Google. (2025c). [Street view 10980 Cedar Pine Drive, Indianapolis, IN].
<https://bit.ly/46za105>.

Figure 4. Side Alpha-Bravo 1 Exposure



Note: Adapted from Zillow. (2025a). 10992 Cedar Pine Drive, Indianapolis, IN 46235.
<https://bit.ly/3UGRB6I>.

Figure 5. Side Charlie-Bravo 1 Exposure



Note: Adapted from Zillow. (2025a). *10992 Cedar Pine Drive, Indianapolis, IN 46235*.

<https://bit.ly/3UGRB6I>

The temperature is currently 91° F with wind from the southwest at 12 mph (Weather Underground, 2025). **You are the company officer of an engine company.** It is Tuesday, June 24th, and you have been dispatched along with a ladder company, medic unit, and command officer to 10996 Cedar Pine Drive at 15:10 for a vehicle accident with a car into a building. The engine 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?

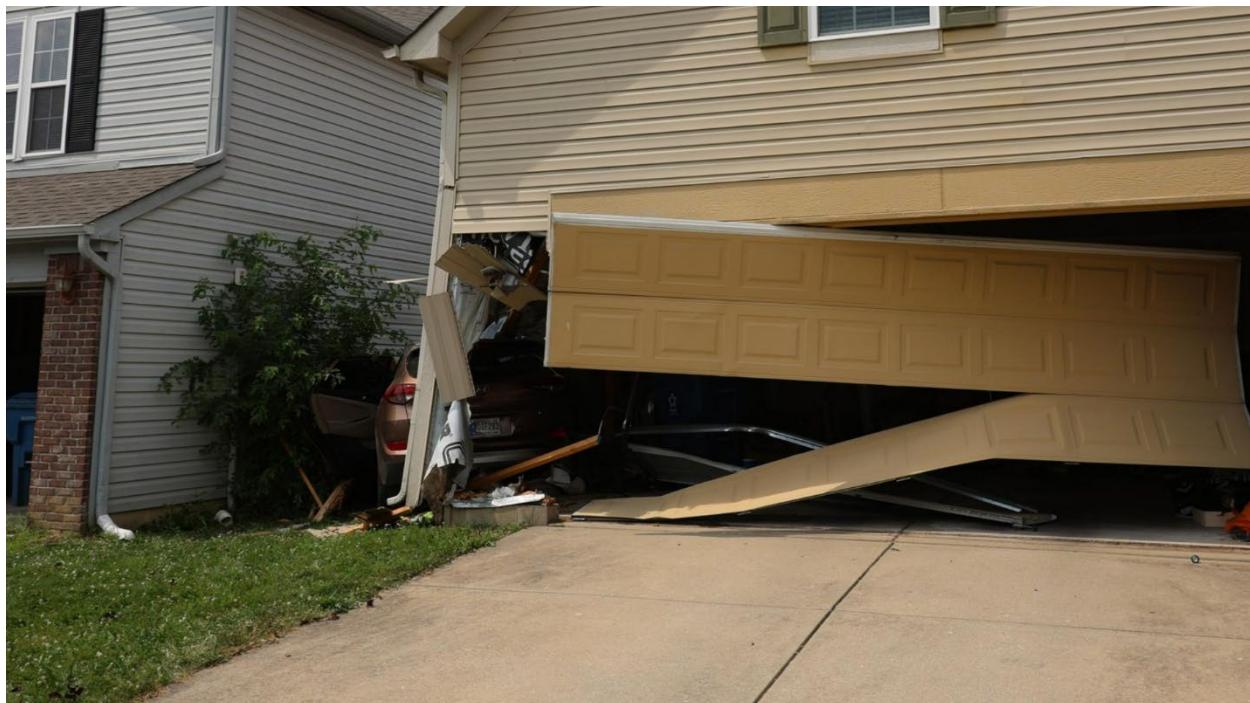
You hear a command officer, a ladder company, and an advanced life support ambulance go en route. While responding, dispatch provides an update that the caller reports that a vehicle crashed through the house and into the house next door.

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).

2. What action will you take (if any) based on this additional information? State your answer in the form of communications you would have with your crew, other companies responding to this incident, or dispatch.

You will arrive first, approaching from the east on Cedar Pine Drive. The ladder company will arrive from the same direction shortly after you. The command officer and medic unit will arrive several minutes after the ladder company. Examine Figure 6, illustrating conditions on arrival.

Figure 6. Conditions on Arrival



Note: Adapted from Indianapolis Fire Department photo.

3. State your initial radio report (IRR) exactly as you would transmit it to dispatch.
4. 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?

Examine Figure 7 illustrating conditions at the Alpha/Bravo Corner of the Main Incident Occupancy and Side Delta of the Delta 1 Exposure. Conditions viewed from Side Charlie are consistent with those observed from Side Alpha with partial displacement of the Bravo wall of the Main Incident Occupancy near the point of impact. The occupants of the vehicle, two teenagers and a seven year old child were able to self-extricate and meet you on Side Alpha in front of the Main Incident Occupancy, reporting that they are uninjured. Bystanders do not know if the occupants of the Main Incident Occupancy or Bravo 1 Exposure are home.

Figure 7. Alpha/Bravo Corner Shortly After Arrival



Note: Adapted from Indianapolis Fire Department photo.

5. Would you change the action you are taking or modify the assignments given to your crew? If so, what task orders would you provide?

6. State your update report exactly as you would transmit it to dispatch.

7. Ladder 1 arrives and advises that they are Level 1 on North German Church Road at Cedar Pine Drive. State the tactical assignment you would give them exactly as you would transmit it.

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 Incident 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](#) (IFD, 2025) before answering the remaining questions.

15. How did you address the potential for occupants in the Main Incident Occupancy and Bravo 1 Exposure? Did you perform a primary search? How did the compromise of structural support (particularly in the Main Incident Occupancy) impact your tactical decision making?
16. What specialized resources did you add to the resource determination for this incident (e.g., collapse rescue team, building official, etc.) and what was the rationale for your request?

17. The IFD Collapse Rescue Team constructed and installed shoring in both the Main Incident Occupancy and Exposure Bravo 1. Would you anticipate that this would be part of IC #2's incident action plan? Why or why not?

Additional Learning: Read [Building Collapse Basics](#) (Daley, 2018) and [Staying Safe at Structural Collapse Operations](#) (Lee, n.d.). With your crew, discuss how you would approach the arrival and surface rescue operations phase of structural collapse if confronted with a structural collapse of a wood frame building under construction. After this discussion, identify if you would do anything different than you did when completing this 10-Minute Training?

For a deeper dive and look at advanced operations or technician level response to collapse incidents see the [Field Guide for Building Stabilization and Shoring Techniques](#) (DHS, 2011), [National Urban Search & Rescue \(US&R\) Response System Rescue Field Operations Guide \(FOG\)](#) (DHS, 2006), and [Urban Search and Rescue Shoring Operations Guide](#) (US Army Corps of Engineers, 2015).

References

Daley, M. (2018). *Building collapse basics*. Retrieved August 4, 2025, from <https://bit.ly/3XQukB>.

Department of Homeland Security (DHS). (2006). *National Urban Search & Rescue (US&R) Response System rescue field operations guide (FOG)*. Retrieved August 4, 2025, from <https://bit.ly/3iB3MzO>.

Department of Homeland Security (DHS). (2011). *Field guide for building stabilization and shoring techniques*. Retrieved August 4, 2025, from <http://bit.ly/2IsVygR>.

Google. (2025a). [Map, 10996 Cedar Pine Drive, Indianapolis, IN]. Retrieved August 4, 2025, from <https://bit.ly/4fsfecA>.

Google. (2025b). [Aerial view 10996 Cedar Pine Drive, Indianapolis, IN]. Retrieved August 4, 2025, from <https://bit.ly/3IVy4fY>.

Google. (2025c). [Street view 10980 Cedar Pine Drive, Indianapolis, IN]. Retrieved August 4, 2025, from <https://bit.ly/46za105>.

Indianapolis Fire Department (IFD). (2025). *10996 Cedar Pine Dr. collapse rescue team*. Retrieved August 4, 2025, from <https://bit.ly/45xJrDs>.

Lee, M. (n.d.). *Staying safe at structural collapse operations*. Retrieved August 4, 2025, from <https://bit.ly/3LdH3qv>.

United States Army Corps of Engineers. (2015). *Urban search and rescue shoring operations guide*. Retrieved August 4, 2025, from <https://bit.ly/3HhYqlr>.

Weather Underground (2025). *Indianapolis weather history* [historical weather June 24, 2025]. Retrieved August 4, 2025, from <https://bit.ly/4obblMW>.

WHTR.com Staff. (2025). *2 teens, 7-year-old crash through home in car on Indy's far east side*. Retrieved August 4, 2025, from <https://bit.ly/4lZoyXH>.

Zillow. (2025a). *10992 Cedar Pine Drive, Indianapolis, IN 46235*. Retrieved August 4, 2025, from <https://bit.ly/3UGRB6I>.