



# In-Station Training

## TM 25-36 Apartment Fire



### Author

Chief Ed Hartin

### Purpose

Multi-family occupancies present significant life hazards, and their configuration and access can be challenging. Preplanning and identification of fixed critical factors in advance of response to an incident can make a big difference in achieving an effective outcome.

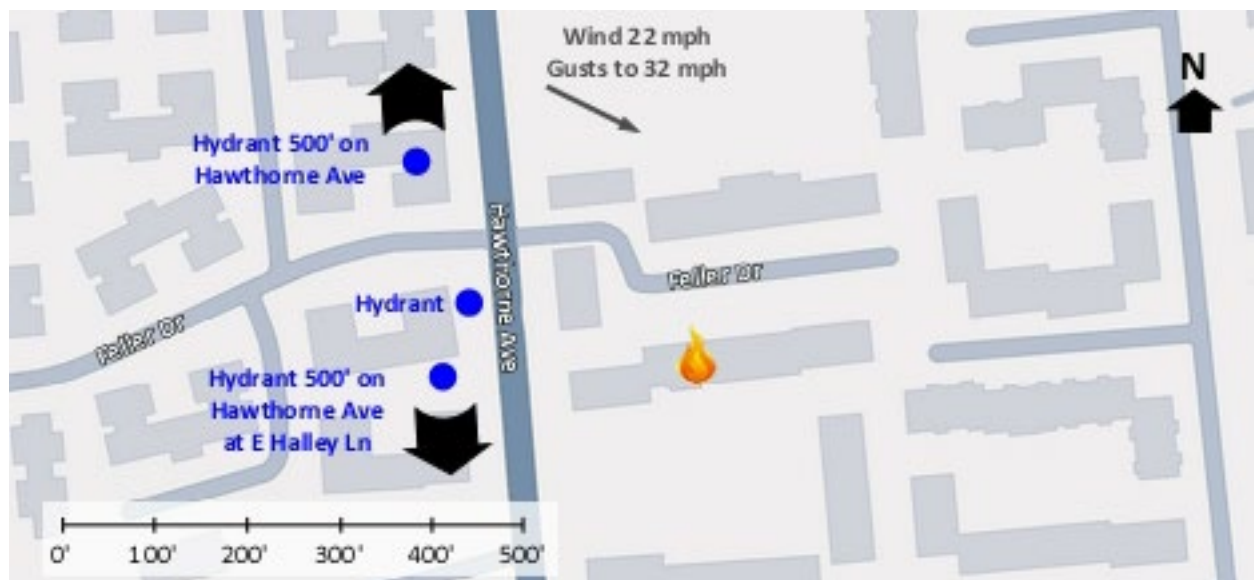
### Learning Outcomes

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 an apartment fire at Hawthorne Living Apartments, 165 Hawthorne Ave in Central Islip, New York on Tuesday, January 14, 2025, at 13:35 (Buff Nation, 2025; Central Islip Fire Department, 2025; Ponton & Burke, 2025; & Eckardt, 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



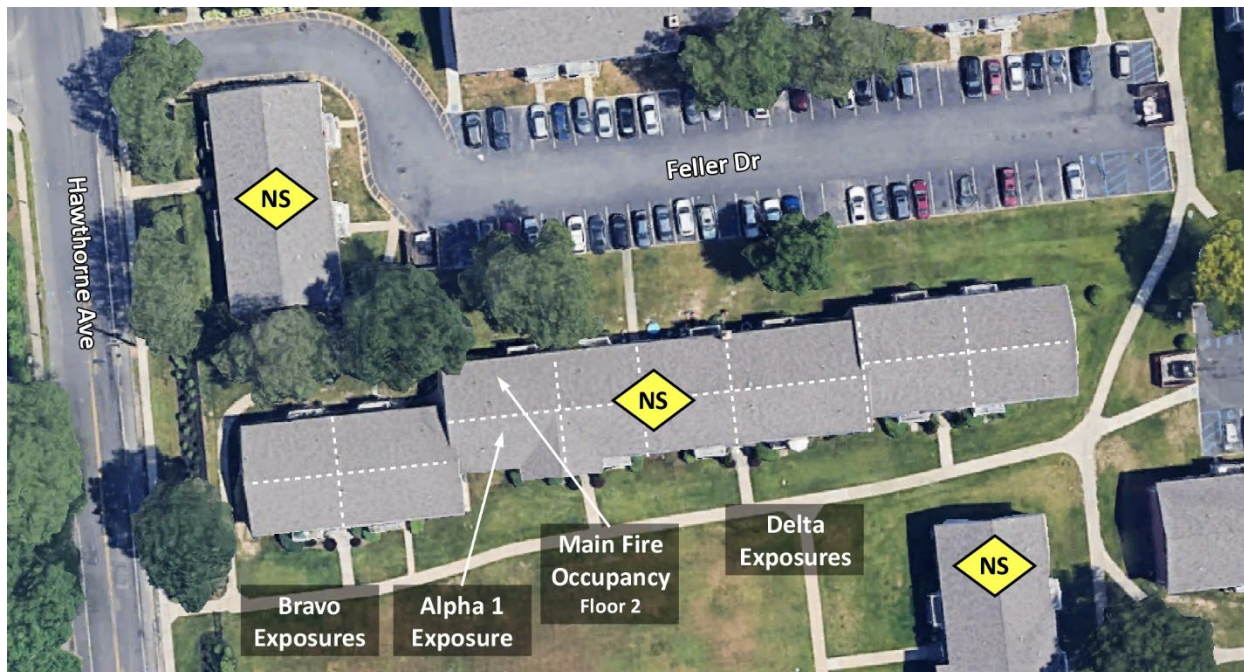
Note: Adapted from Google. (2025a). [Map, 165 Hawthorne Ave, Central Islip, NY].

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

The closest hydrant is on Hawthorne Avenue just south of Feller Drive and there are additional hydrants to the north and south on Hawthorne Avenue as illustrated in Figure 1.

To add a bit of complexity, the building address is Hawthorne Avenue, the main entrance to most of the units is off a greenspace and other units are accessed from Feller Drive. As it appears that the main fire occupancy (on Floor 2) is accessed from the greenspace and as such, this is designated as Side Alpha. Alternately you could use Hawthorne Avenue or Feller Drive as Alpha.

Figure 2. Aerial View



Note: Adapted from Google. (2025b). [Aerial view 165 Hawthorne Ave, Central Islip, NY]. <https://bit.ly/45SeZTM>.



Figure 3. Alpha/Bravo Corner



Note: Adapted from Google. (2023a). [Street view 165 Hawthorne Ave, Central Islip, NY].  
<https://bit.ly/3UKHYDV>.

Figure 4. Side Bravo



Note: Adapted from Google. (2023b). [Street view 165 Hawthorne Ave, Central Islip, NY].  
<https://bit.ly/3HtzKgs>.

Figure 5. Side Charlie



Note: Adapted from Google. (2025c). [3d aerial view 165 Hawthorne Ave, Central Islip, NY]. <https://bit.ly/45LIIA5>.

The temperature is currently 33° F with wind from the west northwest at 20 mph with gusts to 32 mph (Weather Underground, 2025). **You are the company officer of an engine company.** It is Tuesday, January 14<sup>th</sup>, and you have been dispatched along with two other engines, a ladder company, medic unit, and command officer to Hawthorne Living Apartments at 165 Hawthorne Avenue at 13:35 for an apartment 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. While responding, dispatch provides an update reporting a fire in a second floor unit of 165 Hawthorne Avenue.

You will arrive first, approaching from the south on Hawthorne Avenue. The ladder company will arrive from the same direction shortly after you. The second engine will arrive from the north on Hawthorne Avenue several 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.

Watch the first 00:20 of the [incident simulation video](#) (Hartin, 2025) and examine Figure 6, illustrating conditions on approach.

Figure 6. Conditions Approaching on Hawthorne Avenue



*Note: Adapted from Hartin, E. (2025) 10-minute training 25-36 incident simulation [Fire Studio 7 video].*

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

If you would task your apparatus operator with positioning on Side Bravo (near the sidewalk leading to stairwell entrance serving the main fire occupancy, proceed with the remaining questions. **If you would direct your apparatus operator to go past the building to access the building from Feller Drive, examine Appendix A-Side Charlie on the last page of this 10-Minute Training prior to completing the remaining questions.**

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?

Bystanders indicate they do not know if the residents of the main fire occupancy are home.

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 on Hawthorne Avenue south of the complex. 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 on Hawthorne Avenue, north of Feller 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 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?
15. At the time of the incident, wind was reported to be from the west northwest (Alpha/Bravo to Charlie/Delta) at 20 mph with gusts to 30 mph (Weather Underground, 2025). Were incident conditions observed in the video consistent with the reported conditions? Why or why not?
16. How did wind speed and direction influence your incident action plan? If so, how?

Watch the [incident video](#) from 00:15 to 01:40 before answering the remaining questions.

17. Flames were visible from a single window on Floor 2, Side Charlie (Feller Drive), the normal access stairwell was on Side Alpha, and there was potential wind impact on Side Charlie. If your initial water application was from Side Charlie, how would you have accessed (or tasked another company to access) the main fire occupancy on Floor 2? What factors would influence your decision?

18. Did you identify the need for primary search and checking for extension in the adjacent units on Floor 2? Based on your observations watching the incident video, what conditions would you anticipate encountering on adjacent Floor 2 units? What other needs did you identify in your transfer of command conditions, actions, and needs (CAN) report?

**Additional Learning:** Take the time to complete the Underwriters Laboratories Fire Safety Research Institute (UL FSRI) on-line course [Analysis of the Coordination of Suppression and Ventilation in Multi-Family Dwellings](#). If you and your crew have already completed this training, download a copy of the [technical report](#) from this study and review the tactical considerations (see pages 268-314) with the members of your crew.

Get out in your response area and have a look at the multi-family occupancies that you may respond to. Conduct a tactical walk around and identify the fixed critical factors that will influence your fireground operations!

## References

- Buff Nation. (2025). *Central Islip apartment fire displaces over 24 residents; firefighters battle blaze for over an hour*. Retrieved September 1, 2025, from <https://bit.ly/4lXEoBb>.
- Central Islip Fire Department (2025). *Signal 13 "structure fire" on January 14, 2025, at 165 Hawthorne Ave* [Facebook post] Retrieved September 1, 2025, from <https://bit.ly/3UVjhEU>.
- Eckardt, J. (2025). *Fire breaks out in apartment complex on Long Island: police*. Retrieved September 1, 2025, from <https://bit.ly/4nejH5o>.
- Google. (2023a). [Street view 165 Hawthorne Ave, Central Islip, NY]. Retrieved September 1, 2025, from <https://bit.ly/3UKHYDV>.
- Google. (2023b). [Street view 165 Hawthorne Ave, Central Islip, NY]. Retrieved September 1, 2025, from <https://bit.ly/3HtzKgs>.
- Google. (2025a). [Map, 165 Hawthorne Ave, Central Islip, NY]. Retrieved September 1, 2025, from <https://bit.ly/3UKFkht>.
- Google. (2025b). [Aerial view 165 Hawthorne Ave, Central Islip, NY]. Retrieved September 1, 2025, from <https://bit.ly/45SeZTM>.
- Google. (2025c). [3d aerial view 165 Hawthorne Ave, Central Islip, NY]. Retrieved September 1, 2025, from <https://bit.ly/45LlIA5>.
- Hartin, E. (2025) *10-minute training 25-36 incident simulation* [Fire Studio 7 video]. Retrieved September 1, 2025, from <https://bit.ly/46fWPMV>.



- Ponton, T. & Burke, L. 2025. *Officials: At least 2 dozen people displaced following Central Islip apartment fire*. Retrieved September 1, 2025, from <https://bit.ly/422ybwO>.
- Stakes, K., Bryant, J. Dow, N. Regan, J. Weinschenk, C. (2020). *Analysis of the coordination of suppression and ventilation in multi-family dwellings* [technical report]. Retrieved September 1, 2025, from <https://bit.ly/41uz1T0>.
- Underwriters Laboratories Fire Safety Research Institute (UL FSRI). (2022). *Analysis of the coordination of suppression and ventilation in multi-family dwellings* [on-line training]. Retrieved September 1, 2025, from <https://bit.ly/4IUMQSO>.
- Weather Underground (2025). *Ronkonkoma, NY weather history* [historical weather January 14, 2025]. Retrieved September 1, 2025, from <https://bit.ly/3HPJUUrQ>.

## Appendix A-Side Charlie

If you decided to access the fire from Feller Drive, examine Figure 7 and then watch the first 00:16 [incident video](#) (Buff Nation, 2025).

Figure 7. Conditions on Side Charlie (Feller Drive)



Note: Adapted from Central Islip Fire Department (2025). *Signal 13 “structure fire” on January 14, 2025 at 165 Hawthorne Ave* [Facebook post] <https://bit.ly/3UVjhEU>