



In-Station Training

TM 25-40 Apartment Fire



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Purpose

Building layout and configuration have a significant impact on potential for fire spread and tactical operations. Fires starting on or extending to the exterior and overlapping upper floors present significant potential for rapid fire spread to upper floors and the attic.

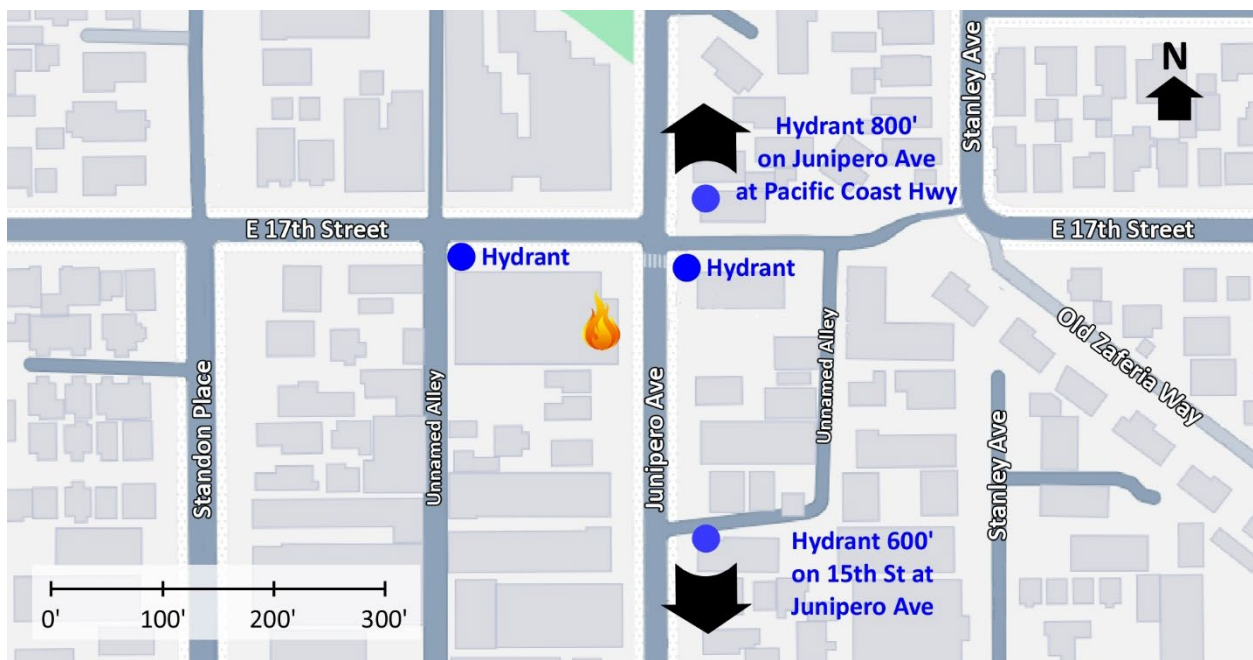
Learning Outcomes

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 apartment fire at 2332 E 17th Street in Long Beach, California on Tuesday, August 5, 2025, at 00:50 (OnScene TV, 2025; & Kurzwell, 2025; Broadcastify, 2025). Review the map and photos (Figures 1-9) to gain an understanding of the building and area involved.

Figure 1. Map of the Incident Area



Note: Adapted from Google. (2025a). [Map, 2332 E 17th Street, Long Beach, CA]. <https://bit.ly/46IUuIC>.

The closest hydrants are Junipero Street at East 17th Street and on 17th Street at the unnamed alley. Additional hydrants are in the area as illustrated in Figure 1.

Figure 2. Aerial/Preplan View



Note: Adapted from Google. (2025b). [Aerial view 2332 E 17th Street, Long Beach, CA].
<https://bit.ly/46Z9BzK>.

As the fire occupancy is on the Junipero Street Side of the building, Junipero Street is designated as Side Alpha in the following figures. All apartment units in the building are accessed by stairwells serving all four floors (garage and three floors of apartments) and walkways open to the light wells and exterior.

Figure 3. Alpha/Bravo Corner



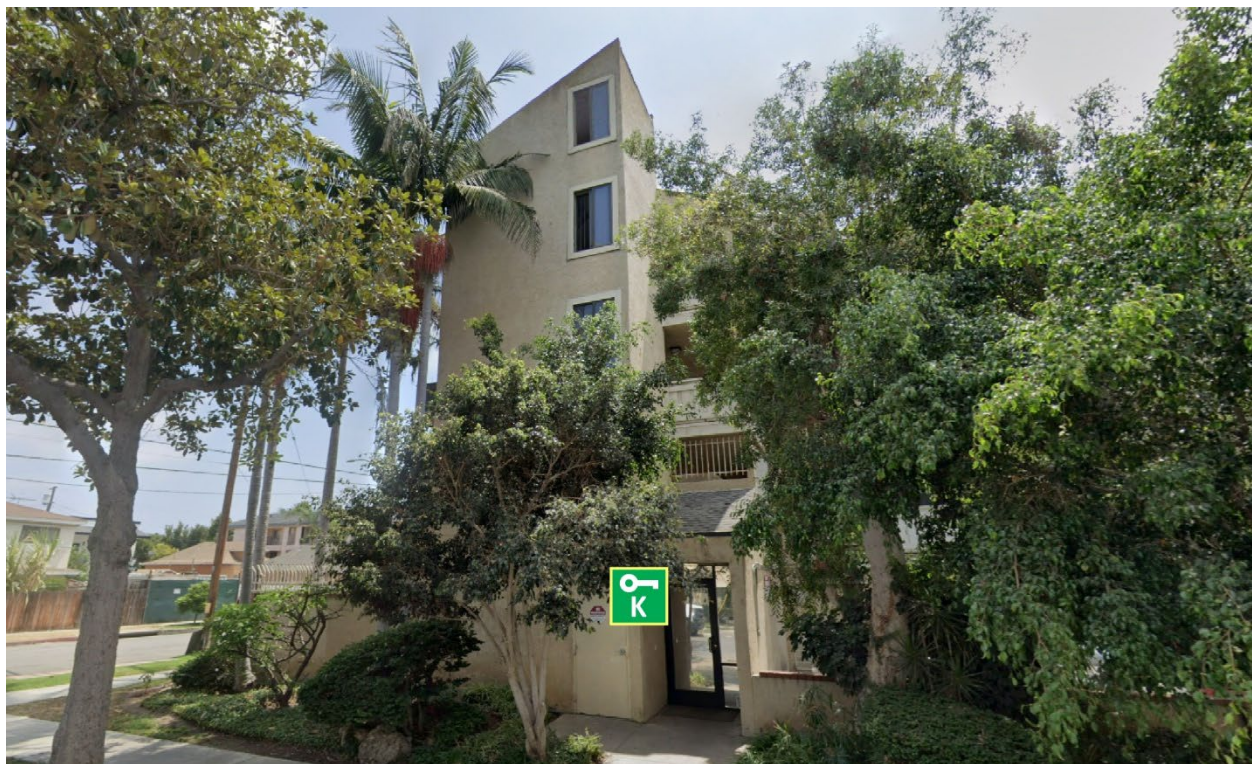
Note: Adapted from Google. (2025c). [Street view 2332 E 17th Street, Long Beach, CA].
<https://bit.ly/4gVehtV>.

Figure 4. Side Alpha



Note: Adapted from Google. (2023). [Street view 2332 E 17th Street, Long Beach, CA].
<https://bit.ly/4npl3JE>.

Figure 5. Side Delta-Main Entrance (Alpha/Bravo Corner)



Note: Adapted from Google. (2025d). [Street view 2332 E 17th Street, Long Beach, CA].
<https://bit.ly/4pEVZ41>.

Figure 6. Side Delta-Garage Entrance



Note: Adapted from Google. (2025e). [Street view 2332 E 17th Street, Long Beach, CA].
<https://bit.ly/3WbxIKR>.

Figure 7. Charlie/Delta Corner



Note: Adapted from Google. (2021). [Street view 2332 E 17th Street, Long Beach, CA].
<https://bit.ly/46ubm88>.

Figure 8. Bravo/Charlie Corner



Note: Adapted from Google. (2025f). [Street view 2332 E 17th Street, Long Beach, CA].
<https://bit.ly/46FXoyx>.

Figure 9. Charlie/Delta 3D Aerial View



Note: Adapted from Google. (2025g). [3d aerial view 2332 E 17th Street, Long Beach, CA].
<https://bit.ly/4pLgwEa>.

The temperature is currently 67° F with wind from the south southeast at 3 mph (Weather Underground, 2025). **You are the company officer of an engine company.** It is Thursday, September 4th, and you have been dispatched along with **two other engines, a ladder company,** medic unit, and **command officer** to 2332 E 17th Street, Unit 101 at 00:50 for an apartment 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. Shortly after going enroute, dispatch provides an update that they are receiving multiple calls and reports of trapped occupants and upgrades the assignment, adding an additional two engines, ladder company, and command officer (providing five engines, two ladder companies and two command officers).

You will approach from the south on Junipero Street and will arrive first. The first ladder company will arrive from the same direction shortly after you. The second engine will arrive from the north on Junipero Street three minutes after the first 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.

Examine Figure 10 illustrating conditions on arrival and watch the [incident video](#) (OnScene TV, 2025) from 00:08 to 00:14.

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).

Figure 10. Conditions on Arrival



Note: Adapted from OnScene TV. (2025). *Long Beach 2nd alarm apartment fire* [video].
<https://bit.ly/4mx6bsx>

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?

A small volume of smoke is visible from open walkways on Floors 2-4 on Side Delta (to the left of the garage entrance). Examine Figure 11 and watch the incident video (OnScene TV, 2025) from 00:31 to 00:45 illustrating conditions shortly after you arrive.

Figure 11. Conditions Shortly After Arrival



Note: Adapted from OnScene TV. (2025). *Long Beach 2nd alarm apartment fire* [video].

<https://bit.ly/4mx6bsx>

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 reports that they are Level 1 at Junipero Street and East 15th 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 Junipero Street and Pacific Coast Highway. State the tactical assignment you would give them exactly as you would transmit it.

8. Based on 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. Did you make a quick hit (exterior water application) on the fire extending up the exterior balconies on Side Alpha prior to stretching to the interior? What factors influenced your decision to start with a quick hit or to immediately stretch to the interior?

In this incident, companies stretched attack lines to the interior and subsequently the IC tasked the apparatus operator of the first arriving engine to make a quick hit on the balconies (Broadcastify, 2025). Watch the incident video (OnScene TV, 2025) from 00:47 to 01:16

16. What coordination would be necessary when using exterior water while companies are operating on the interior?

17. What factors likely influenced the effectiveness of the exterior water application used in this incident to control the exterior fire involving the balconies? How would the height and configuration of this building have impacted on the effectiveness of exterior water application to knock down fire extension to the interior?

18. This building was equipped with a dry standpipe with the fire department connection (FDC) located on Side Delta. Companies operating at this incident did not use the standpipe (Broadcastify, 2025). Did you assign a company to supply the standpipe and assign companies to stretch lines off the standpipe for fire control on the upper floors? What factors influenced your decision to use or not use the standpipe?

19. How did your initial action plan address the potential for trapped occupants in the main fire occupancy and units above? What factors influenced your choice of actions and assignments?

20. What was your assessment of the level of threat to occupants of units that were not above the main fire occupancy (e.g., adjacent to the main fire occupancy or the units above)? Did you identify the need to evacuate or shelter these occupants in place in your transfer of command conditions, actions, and needs (CAN) report?

Additional Learning: During this incident, IC #1 asked companies where they were working and/or what other companies were working with them. Following transfer of command, IC #2 assigned company officers as division supervisors on each floor and several times asked the division supervisors what companies were working in their divisions. This is essential if you have lost track of where companies are and what they are doing, but how can the IC maintain accountability throughout the incident?

Use the following questions to facilitate a discussion with the members of your crew:

- How does the task, location, objective format for tactical orders help maintain accountability?
- What are the work practices and tools that your agency uses to assist in maintaining strategic, tactical, and task level accountability?
- What are the challenges faced by company officers when they are assigned as division supervisors and continuing to work as a member of their own company?
- Where should a division supervisor be positioned if they are responsible for supervising companies operating on an upper floor in a building like the one in this incident?

Review your agencies procedures for accountability and incident organization (focus particularly on how division supervisors are used to manage companies working in the hazard zone). If your agency does not have standard operating procedures addressing these two important topics, the following resources from Blue Card provide a good place to start.

- [Sample Accountability Standard Operating Guideline \(SOG\)](#) (Blue Card, 2023)
- [Sample Sector, Division or Group Supervisors Standard Operating Guideline \(SOG\)](#) (Blue Card, 2023)

Blue Card also has an excellent two-day workshop on [Reinforced Command Operations](#) that provides an opportunity to develop a deeper understanding of division operations and how use of division supervisors improves tactical supervision.

References

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