



In-Station Training

TM 25-49 Mobile Home Fire



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Purpose

Post-1976 mobile homes have significantly improved fire safety due to implementation of the *Manufactured Home Construction and Safety Standards* (24 CFR 3280, 1976). However, significant risks remained, particularly rapid fire spread and loss of structural integrity resulting from their smaller size and lighter construction. Research indicates that a major driver of mobile home prevalence is the percent of population in near poverty and that mobile home residence in the United States is associated with negative social, economic, and health-related outcomes (Brooks & Mueller, 2020).

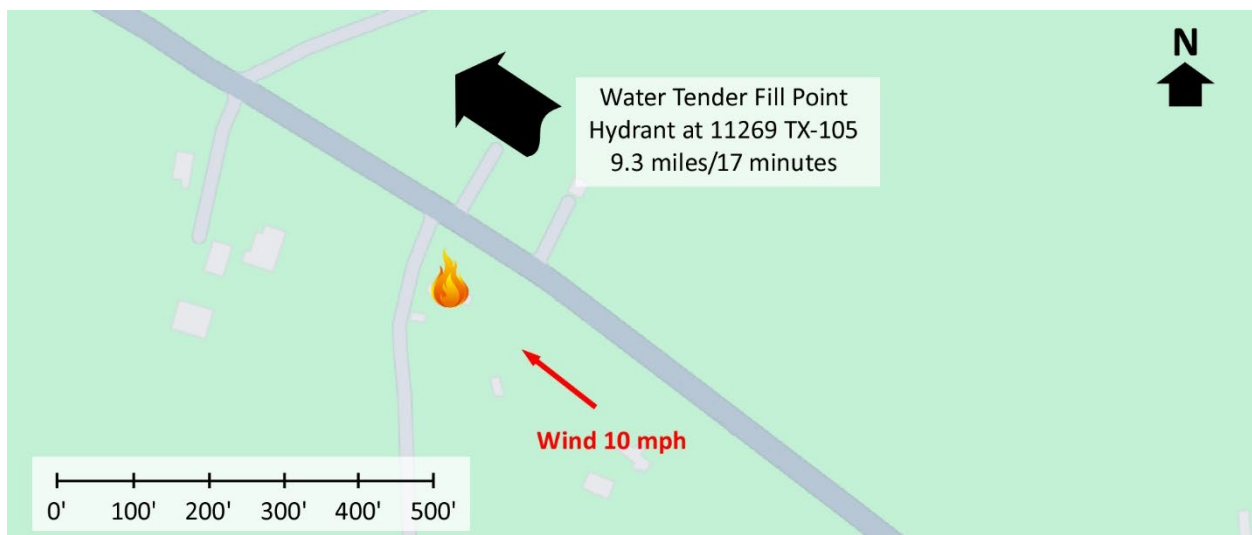
Learning Outcomes

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 19798 Old Highway 105 E, Cleveland, Texas on Thursday October 23, 2025, at 18:30 (Lone Star Fire Response, 2025 & Engle, 2025). Review the map and photos (Figures 1-4) to gain an understanding of the building and area involved.

Figure 1. Map of the Incident Area



Note: Adapted from Google. (2025a). [Map, 19798 Old Highway 105 E, Cleveland, TX]. Map data ©2025 Google. <https://bit.ly/3KtkDoz>.

There are no hydrants in the immediate area. The closest water tender fill point is a hydrant located at 11269 TX-105 as illustrated in Figure 1.

Figure 2. Aerial View



Note: Adapted from Google. (2025b). [Aerial view 19798 Old Highway 105 E, Cleveland, TX]. Imagery © Google, Imagery © Airbus Maxar Technologies, Map Data © 2025. <https://bit.ly/49l9B9d>.

Figure 3. Alpha/Delta Corner



Note: Adapted from Google. (2023a). [Street view 19798 Old Highway 105 E, Cleveland, TX]. ©2025 Google. <https://bit.ly/4oD3Q0x>.

Figure 4. Alpha/Bravo Corner



Note: Adapted from Google. (2023b). [Street view 19798 Old Highway 105 E, Cleveland, TX]. ©2025 Google. <https://bit.ly/4ok04sl>.

While there is no view of Side Charlie, it is likely that there is an exit located on Side Charlie, closer to Side Bravo than Side Delta. As this mobile home was constructed in 1978 (Liberty County TX, 2025), two remote exits were required by the *Manufactured Home Construction and Safety Standards* (24 CFR 3280, 1976) § 3280.105 Exit facilities; exterior doors.

The incident location is in a rural area that is a short distance outside the City of Cleveland Texas. The city has a diverse and growing population with a relatively young median age, and diverse racial and ethnic makeup (Google, 2025d). The area of the incident address is comprised of a small number of large, newer homes on large lots and small, older homes.

The temperature is currently 77° F with wind from the southeast at 10 mph. It has been raining for the last 30 minutes (Weather Underground, 2025). **You are the company officer of an engine company.** It is Thursday October 23rd, and you are dispatched to 19798 Old Highway 105 E with two other engines, two water tenders, a ladder company, medic unit, and command officer for a residential fire at 18:30. The engines and ladder have four-person staffing¹. The water tenders are cross staffed with the other two engine companies (three personnel on the engine and one on the water tender).

¹ If your first alarm deployment is different, use your own resource assignment and staffing.



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 these eight questions.

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

While responding, you hear the other engines, ladder, medic unit, and command officer go enroute and dispatch provides an update that this is a mobile home with flames and smoke showing from the windows, unknown if occupied, the reporting party is a passerby.

You anticipate the ladder company will arrive five minutes after you, followed by the second arriving engine, water tender, and command officer. The third arriving engine and second arriving water tender will arrive after the command officer. Watch the [incident video](#) (Lone Star Fire Response, 2025) from 00:38 to 00:41 and examine Figure 5 illustrating conditions on arrival. Scan the QR code to access the video.

Figure 5. Conditions on Arrival



Note: Adapted from Lone Star Fire Response. (2025). (Pre arrival) mobile home fire (blue fire trucks) North Montgomery County Fire Dept *new Tanker 97*. <https://bit.ly/483pLZD>

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?

Conditions on Side Charlie are consistent with those on Side Alpha with flames and smoke from windows on the Delta end of the mobile 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 follow up report exactly as you would transmit it to dispatch.

6. Ladder 1 arrives and reports that they are Level 1 to the northeast on Old Highway 105 East. 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 to the northeast with Water Tender 2 on Old Highway 105 East. State the tactical assignments you would give Engine 2 and Water Tender 2 exactly as you would transmit them.

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. Think about what cues, patterns, or anomalies (differences from conditions that you would anticipate) informed 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 exposures were occupied?
13. Was there searchable space?
14. If you believed it was reasonable that there was searchable space, what could you do about it?

While there is no incident video showing fireground operations, [post-fire news photos](#) (Engle, 2025) illustrate that companies initiated an offensive strategy operating on and through Side Alpha. Scan the QR code to access the news article and photos.



15. How might wind speed and direction have influenced fire development and spread during this incident?
16. Did you make a quick hit on the fire from the exterior before stretching to the interior of the mobile home for fire control? Why or why not?

17. Crews operating at this incident accessed the interior for fire control through the door on Side Alpha. Was this consistent with your action plan? What factors influenced your choice of attack position?

18. How did you approach completing the tactical priority of getting an all clear on primary search? Did you have the company assigned to search gain access through the door on Side Alpha, through the door on Side Charlie, or through some other point of entry? What factors influenced your tactical assignment for search?

19. Once the fire was knocked down, what ventilation tactics did, or would you use? What factors influenced your decision?

Additional Learning: There have been several posts on [Coffee Cup Drills](#) (Facebook Page) focusing on initial operations at single wide mobile home fires. As is frequently the case, strong opinions are expressed in the comments. In some cases, the comments are supported by sound reasoning and in other cases they reflect a lack of understanding about fire dynamics and the impact of fire control and ventilation tactics. Have a look at these posts and think about the decision you would need to make in these situations and what critical factors would influence those decisions.

- What are your thoughts about exterior water (Coffee Cup Drills, 2025b)? <https://bit.ly/3Y2NrY0>.
- You are arriving on scene with a report of trapped occupants (Coffee Cup Drills, 2025c)! <https://bit.ly/3K72YTE>.

Research conducted by UL FSRI has identified that quick and effective water on the fire (from the exterior or interior) improves interior conditions. However, in an offensive strategy it is essential to rapidly stretch to the interior to ensure fire control (Regan, Bryant, & Weinschenk, 2020). Rapid location and removal of trapped occupants without taking them through the fire area during ongoing fire control operations improves survival (Weinschenk & Stakes, 2022). It is important to note that the experiments in these studies were performed in a stick built, wood frame house with gypsum board wall and ceiling linings. This is quite different than a late 1970s vintage single wide mobile home.

What appears to be a “routine” fire can turn out to be quite the opposite. It is essential to have systems of work that provide resilience and an incident action plan that can quickly adapt to changing conditions.

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