



In-Station Training

TM 25-50 Residential Fire



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Purpose

Garage fires present a wide variety of hazards including vehicle fires inside the garage, storage of flammable liquids and gases. Depending on building configuration, attached garages present a risk of extension to living areas adjacent to or above the garage.

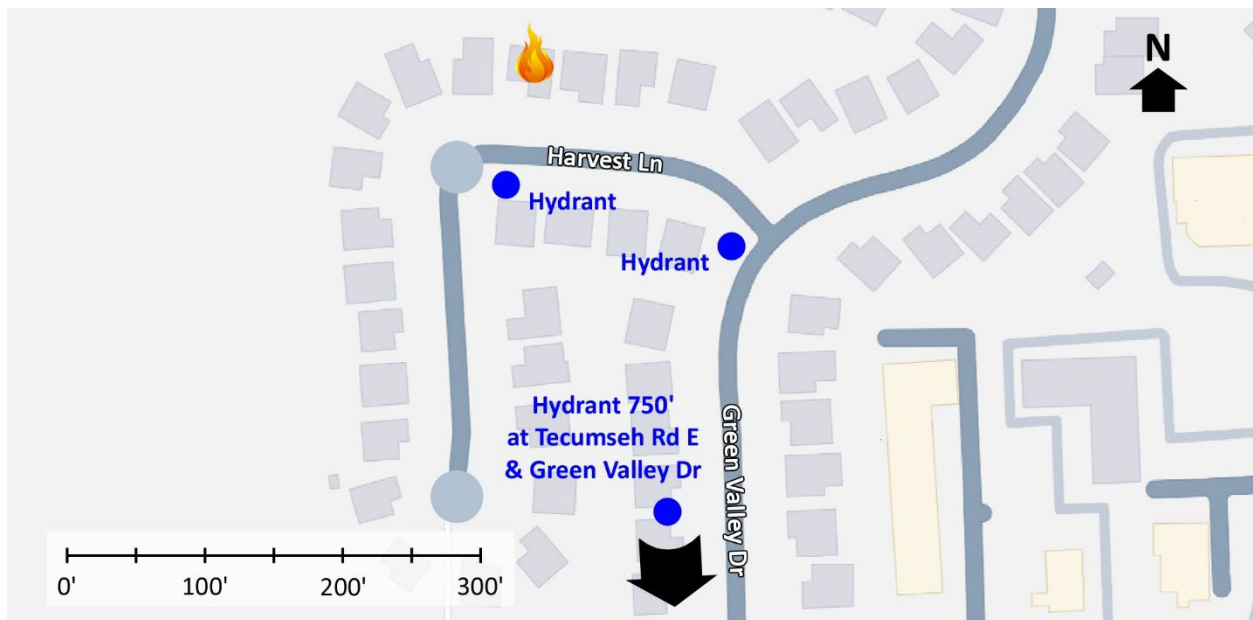
Learning Outcomes

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 13120 Harvest Lane, Tecumseh, Ontario, Canada on Monday, November 24, 2025, at 23:05 (OnLocation TV, 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, 13120 Harvest Lane, Tecumseh, ON]. Map data ©2025 Google. <https://bit.ly/4pFDXhg>.

There is a hydrant directly across the street from the incident location and there are additional hydrants in the area as illustrated in Figures 1 and 2.

Figure 2. Aerial View



Note: Adapted from Google. (2025b). [Aerial view 13120 Harvest Lane, Tecumseh, ON]. Imagery © Google, Imagery © Airbus Maxar Technologies, Map Data © 2025. <https://bit.ly/4atAz4J>.

Figure 3. Alpha/Delta Corner



Note: Adapted from Google. (2025c). [Street view 13120 Harvest Lane, Tecumseh, ON]. ©2025 Google. <https://bit.ly/4rFdMJC>.

Figure 4. Side Alpha



Note: Adapted from Google. (2025d). [Street view 13120 Harvest Lane, Tecumseh, ON]. ©2025 Google. <https://bit.ly/3Kpadq8>.

Figure 5. Alpha/Bravo Corner



Note: Adapted from Google. (2025e). [Street view 13120 Harvest Lane, Tecumseh, ON]. ©2025 Google. <https://bit.ly/3Mgmain>.

Figure 6. Side Charlie



Note: Adapted from Google. (2025f). [3d aerial view 13120 Harvest Lane, Tecumseh, ON]. Imagery © Google, Imagery © Airbus Maxar Technologies, Map Data © 2025. <https://bit.ly/444etSs>.

The community of Tecumseh is part of the Windsor metropolitan area and is an affluent, aging residential suburb. The median age is just over 47 years and is predominantly white with limited diversity. Most of the population speaks English with a substantial number who speak French as their first language or who are bilingual. Most dwellings in Tecumseh are single family homes, with a smaller number of apartments. Many of the residential buildings were constructed between the 1960s and 2000s, with ongoing new construction. The homes in the Harvest Lane neighborhood were constructed in the mid-1990s (Google, 2025g).

The temperature is currently 43° F with wind from the south at 2 mph. (Weather Underground, 2025). **You are the officer on an engine company.** It is Monday, November 24th and you are dispatched to 13120 Harvest Lane with two other engines, a ladder company, medic unit, and command officer for a residential fire at 18:30. The engines and ladder have four-person staffing¹.

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.

While responding, you hear the other engines, ladder, medic unit, and command officer go enroute and dispatch provides an update that the fire is in an attached garage and that the occupants have evacuated.

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

You anticipate the ladder company will arrive shortly minutes after you, followed by the second arriving engine, and command officer. The third arriving engine will arrive after the command officer. Watch the first 00:40 of the [incident video](#) (OnLocation TV, 2025) and examine Figure 7 illustrating conditions on arrival. Click the link above or scan the QR code to access the video.

Figure 7. Conditions on Arrival



Note: Adapted from OnLocation TV. (2025). ***Pre-arrival** heavy fire in attached garage - Harvest Ln - Tecumseh Fire & Rescue – 2025.* <https://bit.ly/3XA6RDB>

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?
4. Ladder 1 arrives and reports that they are Level 1 at Green Valley Drive and Harvest Lane. State the tactical assignment you would give them exactly as you would transmit it.

Watch the [incident video](#) from 00:40 to 02:00. Conditions on Side Charlie are consistent with those on Side Alpha with a small volume of smoke pushing from the eaves with limited velocity.

Figure 8. Conditions Post 360-Degree Reconnaissance



*Note: Adapted from OnLocation TV. (2025). **Pre-arrival** heavy fire in attached garage - Harvest Ln - Tecumseh Fire & Rescue – 2025. <https://bit.ly/3XA6RDB>*

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 follow up report exactly as you would transmit it to dispatch.
7. Engine 2 arrives and reports that they are Level 1 on the hydrant at Green Valley Drive and Harvest Lane. 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. 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 building was occupied?
13. Was there searchable space?

14. If you believed it was reasonable that there was searchable space, what could you do about it?

Companies operating at this incident stretched the first line through Side Alpha and accessed the garage through the door between the garage and the living area. The second line was deployed on Side Alpha and applied water into the garage through the failed overhead door. Watch the [incident video](#) (OnLocation TV, 2025) from 02:00 to 04:25. Click the link above or scan the QR code to access the video.



15. Was the placement of attack lines and sequence of deployment (interior first) consistent with your initial incident action plan? What critical factors influenced your fire control tactical assignments?

16. How would opening the interior door to the garage influence the flow path and potential for extension of smoke and flames into the interior of the house?

17. What were the most likely avenues of extension from the garage into the living spaces or structural voids? How did you address this potential (or expect IC #2 to do so)?

18. Based on the building, environmental, smoke, air track, heat and flame (BE-SHAF) indicators observed in this video segment, do you have any strategic or tactical concerns?

Examine Figure 9 before answering the remaining questions.

Figure 9. Conditions on Side Alpha of the Garage



Note: Adapted from OnLocation TV. (2025). ****Pre-arrival** heavy fire in attached garage - Harvest Ln - Tecumseh Fire & Rescue – 2025.** <https://bit.ly/3XA6RDB>

19. Was the company operating the attack line through the garage door in a safe operating position?
20. If you observed the conditions illustrated in Figure 9, what action would you take. State the face-to-face communications you would have with the crew operating the attack line and radio communications that you would have with IC #2?

Additional Learning: Read [Fire Tactics for Attached Garage Fires](#) (Gustin, 2014) and discuss your agencies standard operating procedures and practices related to attached garage fires with the members of your crew.

In the 1990s, the National Building Code of Canada and provincial codes required a minimum of a 1-hour fire separation and a self-closing, 20-minute rated door between attached garages and living spaces in single family homes. This fire separation was normally achieved using 1/2" (12.5 mm) Type X gypsum board. Current code requirements have increased the fire resistance requirements for separation for living spaces above a garage, requiring 5/8" (15.9 mm) Type X gypsum board (Google, 2025h). How does

this compare with the building or residential code requirements in your area? If you don't know, ask your fire marshal or building official?

Can you quickly recognize the difference between Type IV Wood Frame construction with a brick veneer and Type III Ordinary Construction. Read [*Brick Veneer and the Consequences of Improper Size Up*](#) (Avillo, 2023) for a concise overview of this important aspect of reading the building.

The next time you respond to an incident at a residence with an attached garage (this does not need to be a structure fire incident) do a tactical walk around and discuss the construction features, building layout, and garage fire tactics with the members of your crew.

References

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