



In-Station Training

TM 25-51 Residential Fire



Author

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Purpose

It is essential to understand the differences in tactical priorities in offensive and defensive strategies as well as how exterior water application differs in offense and defense.

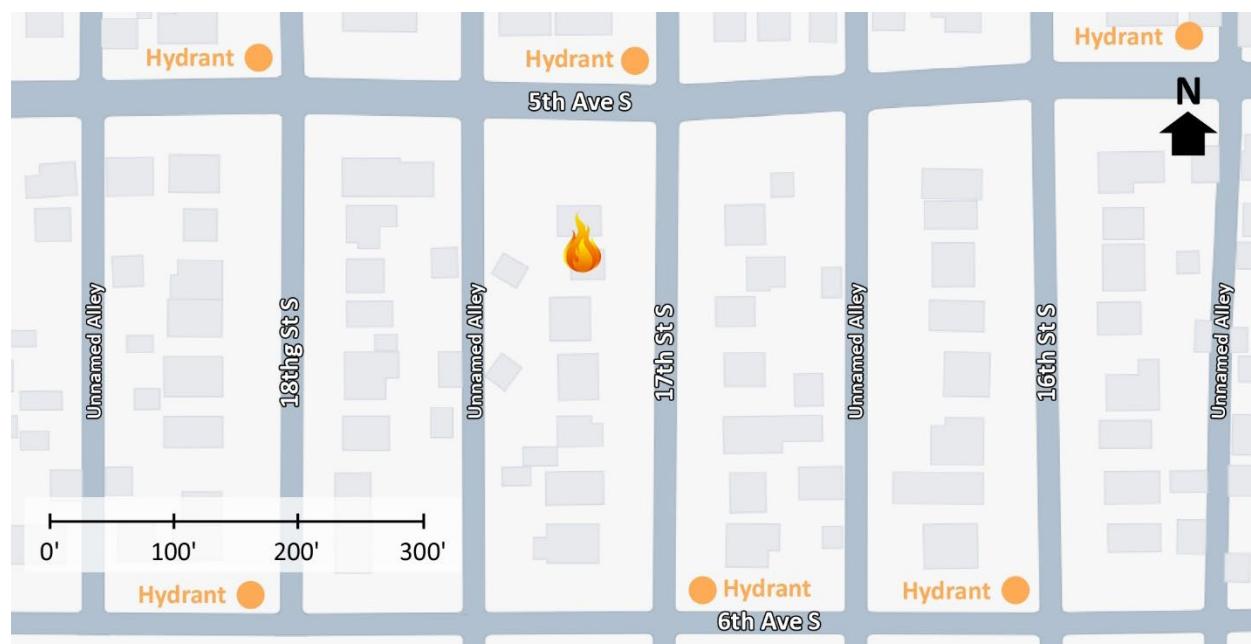
Learning Outcomes

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 1 604 South 17th Street, Escanaba, Michigan on Monday, December 1, 2025, at 02:24 (Logan, 2025 & TV6 News Team, 2026). 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, 604 South 17th Street, Escanaba, MI]. Map data ©2025 Google. <https://bit.ly/48Nq8aY>.

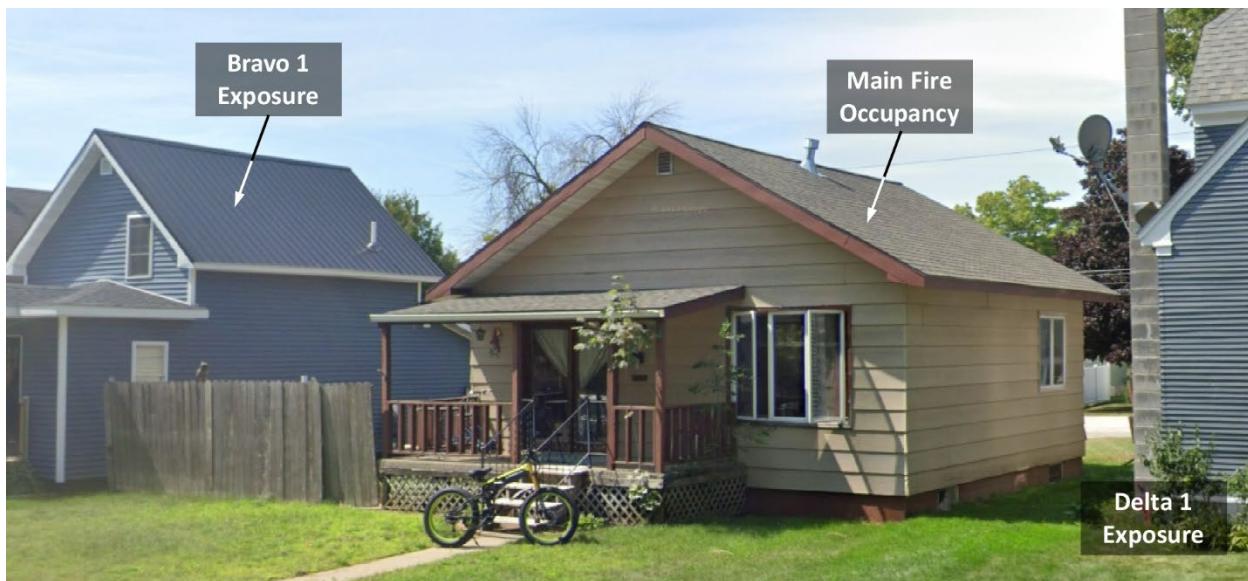
The closest hydrants are on 17th Street South at 5th Avenue South and 6th Avenue South and there are additional hydrants in the area as illustrated in Figures 1 and 2.

Figure 2. Aerial View



Note: Adapted from Google. (2025b). [Aerial view 604 South 17th Street, Escanaba, MI]. Imagery © Google, Imagery © Airbus Maxar Technologies, Map Data © 2025. <https://bit.ly/4pap9az>.

Figure 3. Alpha/Delta Corner



Note: Adapted from Google. (2023a). [Street view 604 South 17th Street, Escanaba, MI]. ©2025 Google. <https://bit.ly/48k9Zbu>.

Figure 4. Side Alpha



Note: Adapted from Google. (2023b). [Street view 604 South 17th Street, Escanaba, MI N]. ©2025 Google. <https://bit.ly/4pdAKFT>.

Figure 5. Alpha/Bravo Corner



Note: Adapted from Google. (2023c). [Street view 604 South 17th Street, Escanaba, MI]. ©2025 Google. <https://bit.ly/4plunu0>.

Figure 6. Side Charlie (Viewed from 5th Avenue South)



Note: Adapted from Google. (2008). [Street view 604 South 17th Street, Escanaba, MI]. ©2025 Google. <https://bit.ly/48z6I8F>.

Escanaba has a higher median age and lower median income in comparison to the State of Michigan. The median age in Escanaba is just over 43 years and, residents are predominantly white with limited diversity. Most dwellings in Escanaba are single family homes, with a smaller number of apartments. Most homes in the 17th Street neighborhood were constructed between 1905 and 1920 (Google, 2025c).

The temperature is currently 17° F with wind from the southwest at 6 mph. (Weather Underground, 2025). **You are the officer on an engine company.** It is Monday, December 1, 2025, and you are dispatched to 604 South 17th Street with two other engines, a ladder company, medic unit, and command officer for a residential fire at 02:24. 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 these questions.

While responding, you hear the other engines, ladder, medic unit, and command officer go enroute and dispatch provides an update that the initial caller reported flames from a window and a second caller reported flames from the roof. Shortly after you go enroute, a law enforcement officer reports that the house is “fully engulfed”.

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

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 several minutes after you, followed by the second arriving engine, and command officer. The third arriving engine will arrive after the command officer. Examine Figure 7 illustrating conditions on arrival (the incident video begins shortly after the start of tactical operations).

Figure 7. Conditions on Arrival



Note: Adapted from Logan. (2025). Pre-arrival fully involved Escanaba Michigan structure fire. Received December 8, 2025, from <https://bit.ly/4pJS85i>. This image has been edited to remove initial tactical operations.

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?

Smoke and fire conditions on Sides Bravo, Charlie, and Delta are consistent with those observed from the Alpha/Delta Corner (Figure 7) with a moderate amount of smoke pushing from the eaves and gable end on Side Charlie with fire involvement towards Side Alpha.

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 on 5th Avenue South and 17th Street South. 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 the hydrant at 5th Avenue South and 17th Street South. 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?

Context: Escanaba Michigan is served by a law enforcement centric public safety department staffed by public safety officers who are cross trained as law enforcement officers and firefighters. When a fire incident occurs, some of the public safety officers who are on law enforcement patrol respond to the station to staff fire apparatus and others respond directly to the incident location. Public safety officers also provide first response to emergency medical incidents, but ambulance service is provided by a private provider.

Important! In some cases, videos used in 10-Minute Trainings show less than ideal emergency operations. Remember that no firefighter or fire officer goes to an incident wanting to do a poor job. There are many factors that may influence incident operations and video or a still photograph seldom, if ever provide the entire story. Keep in mind that videos or photos of real incidents are used to provide a learning context.

The first arriving company placed an apparatus mounted master stream into operation from the Alpha/Delta Corner and then stretched an attack line on Side Alpha. Later arriving resources stretched a second attack line on Side Bravo. Watch the first 02:30 of the [incident video](#). Click the link above or scan the QR code to access the video.



Public safety officers who arrived in patrol vehicles prior to fire apparatus evacuated residents of the Bravo 1 and Delta 1 Exposures.

15. What factors limited the effectiveness of the apparatus mounted master stream as an initial method of water application? How might the available resources been used to quickly achieve effective water application?

16. As the attack line was being stretched on Side Alpha firefighters encountered an injured occupant (00:33 in the incident video). How might the need to assess and care for the patient impact initial operations?

17. How could the effectiveness of the attack line (or lines) on Side Alpha have been improved?

Watch the remainder of the [incident video](#) (Logan, 2025). Click the link above or scan the QR code to access the video. At 03:30 in the incident video, one of the attack lines on Side Alpha was redeployed to Side Charlie and exterior offensive (inside the collapse zone) fire control operations continued. Later in the incident (not shown in the video), a ladder company was tasked with vertical ventilation (Broadcastify, 2025b).



18. While the incident commander and companies operating at this incident may have observed conditions not visible in the incident video, was their use of an offensive exterior attack consistent with your strategy in this 10-Minute Training? What factors influenced your choice of strategy and what factors may have influenced the strategy and tactical approach taken in the actual incident?

Additional Learning: Given the size of this building and level of involvement, a single, well placed 1 ¾" attack line with good water mapping would have been effective in quickly knocking down the fire using a small amount of water. In this incident, once the initial attack line was deployed the stream appeared to have low flow and pressure, this was in part likely due to kinks at the engine (see Figure 8).

Figure 8. Kinks



Logan. (2025). Pre-arrival fully involved Escanaba Michigan structure fire. Received December 8, 2025, from <https://bit.ly/4plS85i>

Get out and stretch hose! Practice deployment of an attack line and application of water based on the conditions that the first arriving company encountered during this incident. Focus on the little things, economy of movement, masking up quickly, proper discharge pressure on the attack line, kinks, stream patterns and angle, all which impact on minimizing the time to get effective water on the fire.

Have a conversation with the members of your crew and identify at least three areas in which each of your crew members can improve performance. These are not necessarily deficiencies, but simply areas in which you can perform better than you do today. Develop a plan of action for first several months of the new year that will help you achieve these goals.

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