



In-Station Training

TM 26-01 Residential Fire



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Purpose

Fires in attached garages in residential occupancies present multiple tactical challenges. Do you stretch the first attack line to the interior to prevent extension and protect search, or do you stretch directly to the garage for quick water on the fire? How do you ventilate a garage fire while minimizing smoke spread into living areas?

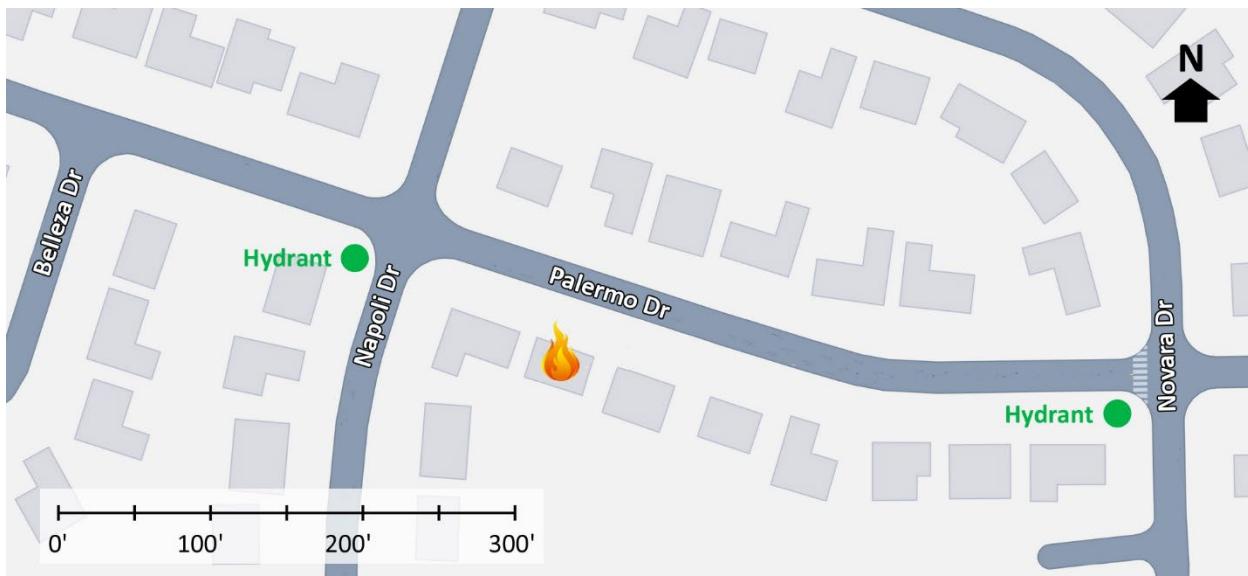
Learning Outcomes

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 366 Palermo Drive, Ballwin, Missouri on Wednesday, November 26, 2025, at 08:24 (Ziegler, 2025a, 2025b). 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, 366 Palermo Drive, Ballwin, MO]. Map data ©2025 Google. <https://bit.ly/3Yty2Ad>.

The closest hydrant is on Palermo Drive at Napoli Drive with an additional hydrant on Palermo Drive at Novara Drive as illustrated in Figure 1.

Figure 2. Aerial View



Note: Adapted from Google. (2025b). [Aerial view 366 Palermo Drive, Ballwin, MO]. Imagery © Google, Imagery © Airbus Maxar Technologies, Map Data © 2025. <https://bit.ly/3XRiWo6>.

Figure 3. Alpha/Bravo Corner



Note: Adapted from Google. (2022a). [Street view 366 Palermo Drive, Ballwin, MO]. ©2025 Google. <https://bit.ly/3L1gRD6>. Image generated with Google (2025) Gemini Pro 3, Nano Banana. Image generated December 15, 2025.

Figure 4. Alpha/Delta Corner



Note: Adapted from Google. (2022b). [Street view 366 Palermo Drive, Ballwin, MO]. ©2025 Google. <https://bit.ly/3Yqx2Nl>. Image generated with Google (2025) Gemini Pro 3, Nano Banana. Image generated December 15, 2025.

Figure 5. Side Charlie



Note: Adapted from Zillow. (2022). 366 Palermo Dr, Ballwin, MO 63021 <https://bit.ly/4s2gzg8>. Image generated with Google (2025) Gemini Pro 3, Nano Banana. Image generated December 15, 2025.

The incident is in an established suburban neighborhood developed in the early 1970s, consisting primarily of owner-occupied, single-family, wood-frame homes. The area has a low frequency of structure fires. Community data indicate high rates of homeownership and long-term residency. (Google, 2025c).

The temperature is currently 54° F with wind from the east northeast at 8 mph. (Weather Underground, 2025). **You are the officer of the first arriving engine company.** It is Wednesday, November 26th and you are dispatched to 366 Palermo Drive with two other engines, a ladder company, medic unit, and command officer for a residential fire at 08:24. 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 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 after you, followed by the second arriving engine, and command officer. The third arriving engine will arrive after the command officer. Watch the first 00:30 of the [incident video](#) (Ziegler, 2025a) and examine Figure 6 illustrating conditions on arrival. Click the link above or scan the QR code to access the video.

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

Figure 6. Conditions on Arrival



Note: Adapted from Ziegler, B. (2025a). 2025-11-26 - house fire - 366 Palermo Dr, Ballwin, MO - Metro West Fire [video]. <https://bit.ly/44pmd11>.

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?

Watch the [incident video](#) (Ziegler, 2025a) from 01:00 to 02:00 and examine Figure 7. Click the link above or scan the QR code to access the video. On Side Charlie, smoke is pushing from the sliding glass doors on Floor 1. All other conditions are consistent with those observed from Side Alpha and Delta. You encounter a fence obstructing access on Side Bravo (but observed conditions on this side of the building).

Figure 7. Conditions Post 360-Degree Reconnaissance



Note: Adapted from Ziegler, B. (2025a). 2025-11-26 - house fire - 366 Palermo Dr, Ballwin, MO - Metro West Fire [video]. <https://bit.ly/44pmd1>.

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 Palermo Drive at Novara Drive. 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 on Palermo Drive at Novara Drive. State the tactical assignment you would give them exactly as you would transmit it.

The command officer arrives, and contacts you by radio for a command transfer. The command officer provides an accurate rundown of the current assignments and operating positions Engine 1, Ladder 1, and Engine 2 and then requests a conditions, actions, and needs (CAN) report.

8. Based on anticipated effectiveness of your tactical operations, state then CAN report that you would provide 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 to the garage to make a quick hit from the exterior through the top of the overhead door where it had burned through. The second line was deployed through Side Alpha to Floor 1 to check for extension and primary search. Watch the remainder of the [incident video](#) (Ziegler, 2025a). Click the link above or scan the QR code to access the video.



15. The attack line on Side Alpha initially had insufficient pressure and flow. What factors may have caused this? If you were the company officer of this engine, what action would you take to resolve this issue (when it occurred)?

16. 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?

17. What are your assumptions about the interior layout and floor plan of this house? How would interior layout (in particular, the stairway between the first floor (lower level), the front entryway, and second floor (upper level) impact smoke and fire spread inside the building?

18. 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)?

19. If the lack of pressure and flow was due to apparatus operator error, what steps would you take to address this issue after the incident?

Additional Learning: Watch the second [incident video](#) (Ziegler, 2025b). Click the link above or scan the QR code to access the video. Companies operating on Side Alpha forced entry through the overhead door to gain access for fire control and to provide a large opening for ventilation.



Watch *Residential Garage Doors* with your crew and discuss which of these methods would be appropriate given the conditions encountered by the companies operating at 336 Palermo Drive. Review the forcible entry tools and capabilities of your company and discuss what options you have for forcing roll-up garage doors.



If your company carries or has access to a rotary saw, get out and practice the movements necessary to make these cuts. Walk through the sequence of cuts, holding the saw in the positions that would be necessary, first with the saw off and second with the saw running at speed. This practice reinforces sequence and provides an opportunity to develop proficiency in managing the gyroscopic forces generated by the spinning saw blade.

10-Minute Training 25-50 focused on a residential fire involving an attached garage in which companies took a different tactical approach. Have a look at [10-Minute Training 25-50](#) and give some thought to the similarities and differences in these two incidents and how conditions may change your choice of tactics (or not) when confronted with similar situations.

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