



In-Station Training

TM 26-02 Commercial Fire



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Purpose

Commercial occupancies often have an open plan configuration with limited compartmentation which impacts fire development and firefighting operations. In addition, each type of commercial building may present different hazards based on its occupancy.

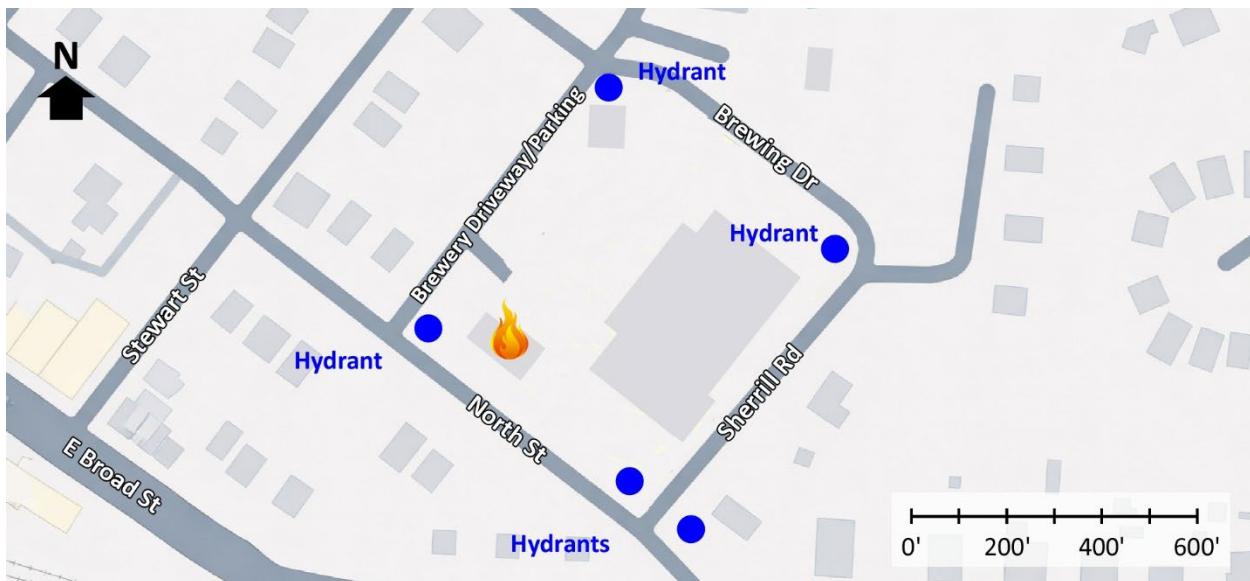
Learning Outcomes

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 commercial fire at the Morning Hangar Breakfast Restaurant 688 Brewing Dr, Fuquay-Varina, North Carolina on Monday, December 15, 2025, at 16:55 (Jpope527, 2025 & ABC11, 2025). 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, 688 Brewing Dr, Fuquay-Varina, NC]. Map data ©2025 Google. <https://bit.ly/44K2cmw>.

There is a hydrant on the Alpha/Bravo Corner of the Main Fire Occupancy 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 688 Brewing Dr, Fuquay-Varina, NC]. Imagery © Google, Imagery © Airbus Maxar Technologies, Map Data © 2025. <https://bit.ly/49rQKP4>.

Figure 3. Alpha/Delta Corner



Note: Adapted from Google. (2025c). [Street view 688 Brewing Dr, Fuquay-Varina, NC]. ©2025 Google. <https://bit.ly/4pwVgkp>.

Figure 4. Alpha/Bravo Corner



Note: Adapted from Google. (2025d). [Street view 688 Brewing Dr, Fuquay-Varina, NC]. ©2025 Google. <https://bit.ly/45sQDAI>.

Figure 5. Bravo/Charlie Corner



Note: Adapted from Google. (2025e). [Street view 688 Brewing Dr, Fuquay-Varina, NC]. ©2025 Google. <https://bit.ly/3L90mmS>.

The community of Fuquay-Varina is a **growing suburban town** in southern Wake County with a mix of residential neighborhoods, commercial corridors, and historic districts near the town center. The incident location is within a primarily **mixed-use area** combining dining, retail, and adjacent residential development. The median age is approximately 36 years and is relatively diverse from a racial and ethnic perspective. The buildings in the Aviator Brewing Company complex (inclusive of the Morning Hanger Breakfast Restaurant have been constructed in the last several years. Frequency of structure fires in this area is relatively low in comparison to other areas of the community (Google, 2025f).

The temperature is currently 33° F with wind from the south southwest at 6 mph. (Weather Underground, 2025). **You are the officer of the first arriving engine company.** It is Monday, November 24th and you are dispatched to 688 Brewing Drive along with two other engines, a ladder company, medic unit, and command officer for a commercial fire at 16:55. 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 multiple calls have been received reporting smoke from the restaurant.

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 00:15 of the incident video (Jpope527, 2025) 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 Jpope527. (2025) **Pre arrival ** Fuquay-Varina commercial structure fire 12-15-25. Retrieved December 27, 2025., from <https://bit.ly/4qtEpzM>.*

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 Sides Charlie and Delta are consistent with those on Side Alpha with smoke from the eaves

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 a hydrant on North Street at Sherrill Road. 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 at North Street and Stewart Street. 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?

In the actual incident, Fuquay-Varina Battalion 1 arrived first followed in quick succession by Ladder 1 and Engine 1. Engine 1 was tasked with fire control and Ladder 1 was assigned to search.

15. Were these assignments consistent with your initial incident action plan? What factors influenced the tactical assignments that you gave Ladder 1 and Engine 2?

16. Where did you place your initial attack line? How would you expect your nozzle firefighter to apply water given the likely interior configuration (think about the ceiling) of this building?

17. How might the interior layout and configuration of the restaurant have influenced primary search?

Additional Learning: In a residential occupancy, compartment linings are often smooth with limited obstructions. Research conducted by the Underwriters Laboratories Fire Safety Research Institute (UL FSRI) has shown that water application through a window or door at a steep angle provides distribution across the ceiling to the walls, providing good surface cooling. However, as the angle of the stream is lowered most of the water is distributed to the wall opposite the window or door (Weinschenk, Stakes, & Zevotek, 2017). Complete the UL FSRI [Water Mapping in Residential Structures](#) on-line course (18 minutes) to learn more about this important concept as applied in a residential context and discuss these concepts with your crew. Think about the differences in water application with the nozzle outside the fire compartment versus inside the fire compartment and the impact of interior layout, configuration, and obstructions such as furniture.

Get out in your response area and visit several commercial occupancies with your company and discuss how the concept of water mapping as presented in the UL FSRI on-line course focused on residential occupancies would apply in commercial buildings. Look up, look down, and look around! Consider the impact of dropped ceilings, obstructions on the ceiling like HVAC equipment and ductwork, as well as furniture, display shelving, etc.

If you have access to a training tower, stretch some hose and explore the impact of different water application methods on distribution within compartments!

References

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