



In-Station Training

TM 26-04 Residential Fire with Exposures



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Purpose

The challenges presented by defensive fire conditions in the main fire occupancy with multiple exposures can be significantly magnified by high wind conditions and sub-zero temperatures.

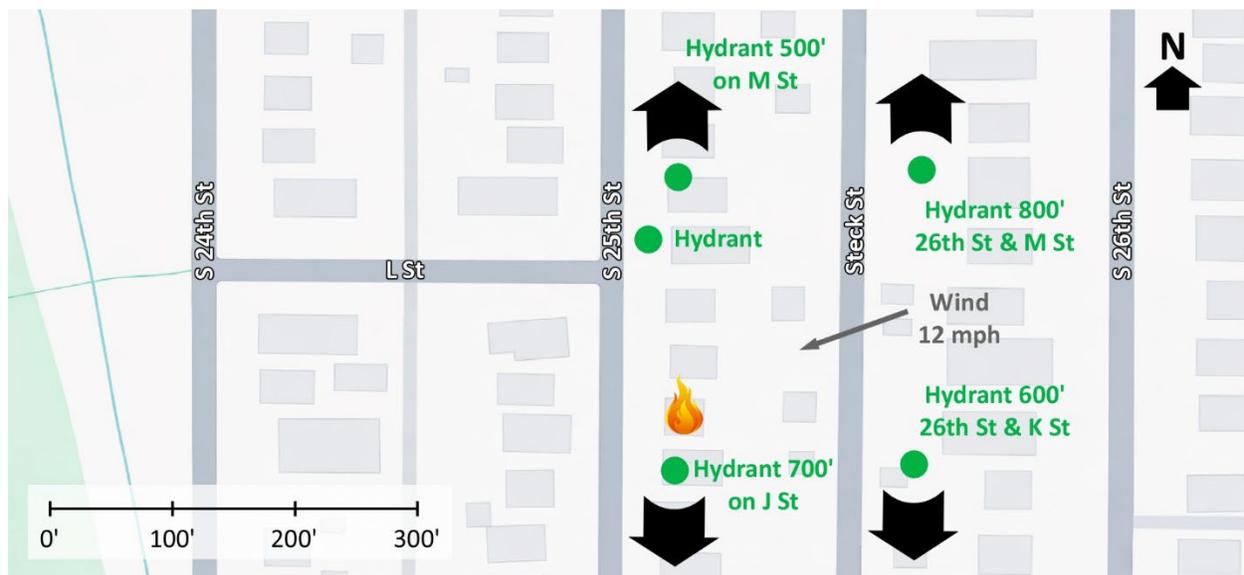
Learning Outcomes

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 412 South 25th Street in Lincoln, Nebraska on Tuesday, February 18, 2025, at 07:07 (Lincoln Fire & Rescue, 2025; Barbosa-Rewinkel, 2025; Dorn & Elming, 2025; 10/11 Now & Lawson, 2025 & Broadcastify, 2025a-2025f). Review the map and photos (Figures 1-6) to gain an understanding of the buildings and area involved.

Figure 1. Map of the Incident Area



Note: Adapted from Google. (2025a). [Map, 412 S 25th Street, Lincoln, Nebraska]. Map data ©2025 Google. <https://bit.ly/4qpTQcq>.

The closest hydrant is on South 25th Street at L Street and there are additional hydrants in the area as illustrated in Figure 1.

Figure 2. Aerial View



Note: Adapted from Google. (2025b). [Aerial view 412 S 25th Street, Lincoln, Nebraska]. Imagery © Google, Imagery © Airbus Maxar Technologies, Map Data © 2025. <https://bit.ly/49r44U7>.

Figure 3. Alpha/Bravo Corner & Bravo 1 Exposure



Note: Adapted from Google. (2022a). [Street view 412 S 25th Street, Lincoln, Nebraska]. ©2025 Google. <https://bit.ly/4sJYUtH>.

Figure 4. Alpha/Delta Corner & Delta 1 Exposure



Note: Adapted from Google. (2022b). [Street view 412 S 25th Street, Lincoln, Nebraska]. ©2025 Google. <https://bit.ly/49HPxST>.

Figure 5. Bravo/Charlie Corner (View from Steck Street)



Note: Adapted from Google. (2012a). [Street view 412 S 25th Street, Lincoln, Nebraska]. ©2025 Google. <https://bit.ly/4b3MmHq>.

Figure 6. Charlie/Delta Corner (View from Steck Street)



Note: Adapted from Google. (2012b). [Street view 412 S 25th Street, Lincoln, Nebraska]. ©2025 Google. <https://bit.ly/4sRtZMn>.

This neighborhood is an urban residential area comprised of established city blocks with predominantly single-family homes and a smaller number of multi-family buildings. Most of the buildings in this neighborhood are wood frame and were built in the early 1900s and as such are balloon frame construction. Approximately 58% of the homes in this neighborhood are owner-occupied with rental properties comprising the remainder of the housing stock. Median age is 40 years and median income is significantly lower than the average for the State of Nebraska. (Open AI, 2025). The frequency of fire and emergency medical incidents in this area is typical of other residential neighborhoods in the city.

The temperature is currently -7° F with wind from the east northeast at 12 mph. (Weather Underground, 2025). **You are the officer of the first arriving engine company.** It is Tuesday, February 18th and you are dispatched to a residential fire 1 house south of 406 South 25th Street along with two other engines, a ladder company, medic unit, and command officer at 07:07. The engines and ladder have four-person staffing¹.



Time starts now! Answer the first eight questions within the next 10 minutes. Save discussion for after answering these questions.

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

While responding, you hear the other engines, ladder, medic unit, and command officer go enroute and dispatch provides an update that they are receiving multiple calls for a residential fire 1 house south of 406 South 25th Street.

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



Important! Answer questions two through eight in the form of communication you would have with your crew, dispatch, other companies, and the first arriving command officer. State the communications exactly as you would say them face-to-face or over the radio. Save explanation or discussion until after you have completed these questions.

The incident video is from the battalion chief's dash cam. However, in this 10-Minute Training your engine will arrive first.

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 01:00 of the [incident video](#) (Lincoln Fire & Rescue, 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: Hartin (2025) adapted from Lincoln Fire & Rescue. (2025). [Facebook reel]. Retrieved January 17, 2026, from <https://bit.ly/4qUXhaQ>.

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?

You observe that fire has extended to the exterior of the Bravo 1 and Delta 1 exposures and likely has or will soon extend to the interior of these two exposures.

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 South 25th Street to the 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 on South 25th Street at L 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, Battalion 1 declared this as a working incident from South Antelope Valley Parkway and East O Street (approximately ½ mile away from the incident location) based on observation of a large smoke column. Battalion 1 arrived first, established command, declaring a defensive strategy.

15. In the actual incident, 25th Street Command assigned Engine 1 to defensive fire control with a master stream on Side Alpha. They performed a dry forward lay and achieved quick water on the fire, but a continuous water supply was delayed until the arrival of Medic 2. Was this consistent with your fire control and water supply tactics in this 10-Minute Training? What critical factors influenced your choice of fire control and water supply tactics?

16. In the actual incident, 25th Street Command initially assigned Truck 1 to set up for an elevated master stream, but quickly changed their assignment to primary search of the Bravo 1 and Delta 1 Exposures? Command made the Bravo 1 Exposure a priority. Was this consistent with your assignment of Ladder 1 in this 10-Minute Training? What other tactical options could have been used to quickly search these two exposures?

17. 25th Street Command assigned Battalion 2 as Division Bravo 1 with Engine 3, Engine 2, and Truck 8 working for him. How would this have changed the reporting relationship of the companies operating in this Exposure?
18. 25th Street Command did not have a third chief officer during the early stages of this incident and assigned the company officer of Engine 7 as the Division Delta 1 Supervisor with Engine 7, Engine 9, Engine 8, and Engine 13. If as a company officer, you were assigned as a division supervisor, how would you approach managing your division as well as ensuring effective task level supervision for your crew?

Additional Learning: Clear and concise radio communications is essential to effective management of incident operations. The radio communications from the residential fire at 412 S 25th Street provides multiple examples of good communications.

Listen to the [incident radio communications](#) (Hartin, 2026) from the residential fire at 412 S 25th Street and track the assignment of incident resources using the tactical worksheet used by your command officers.



This recording has been edited to remove blank airtime (reducing three hours of radio communication to approximately one hour and forty five minutes). While long, there are excellent lessons that can be learned throughout the audio recording. If you are pressed for time, listen to the [first 15 minutes of the incident audio](#) (through transmittal of the 4th alarm) and the [two minutes of incident audio](#) from 30:00 to 32:00 (strategic shift in the Delta 1 Exposure). As you listen to the incident audio, consider lessons that can be learned from this incident in the following areas:

- Command presence.
- Addressing multiple exposures.
- Incident communications.
- Incident organization.
- Defensive operations in the main fire occupancy and offense in the exposures.
- Strategic shift in one exposure and not the other.
- Prioritization of exposure protection.
- Complex water supply.
- Tactical patience with shielded fire under defensive conditions

- Impact of cold weather on equipment and personnel.
- Reorganization due to changing incident requirements.

Get out and practice your defensive fire control options (e.g., handlines, portable master streams, apparatus mounted master streams, and elevated master streams. Focus on time to task and ways to maximize efficiency. Review high flow water supply operations including the use of attack and supply engines in relay, taking over a hydrant, and supplemental pumping.

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