



In-Station Training

TM 26-04a Residential Fire with Exposures



Author

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Purpose

This training is paired with 10-Minute Training 26-04, providing a second example of a residential fire with significant involvement of the Main Fire Occupancy and extension to an adjacent house.

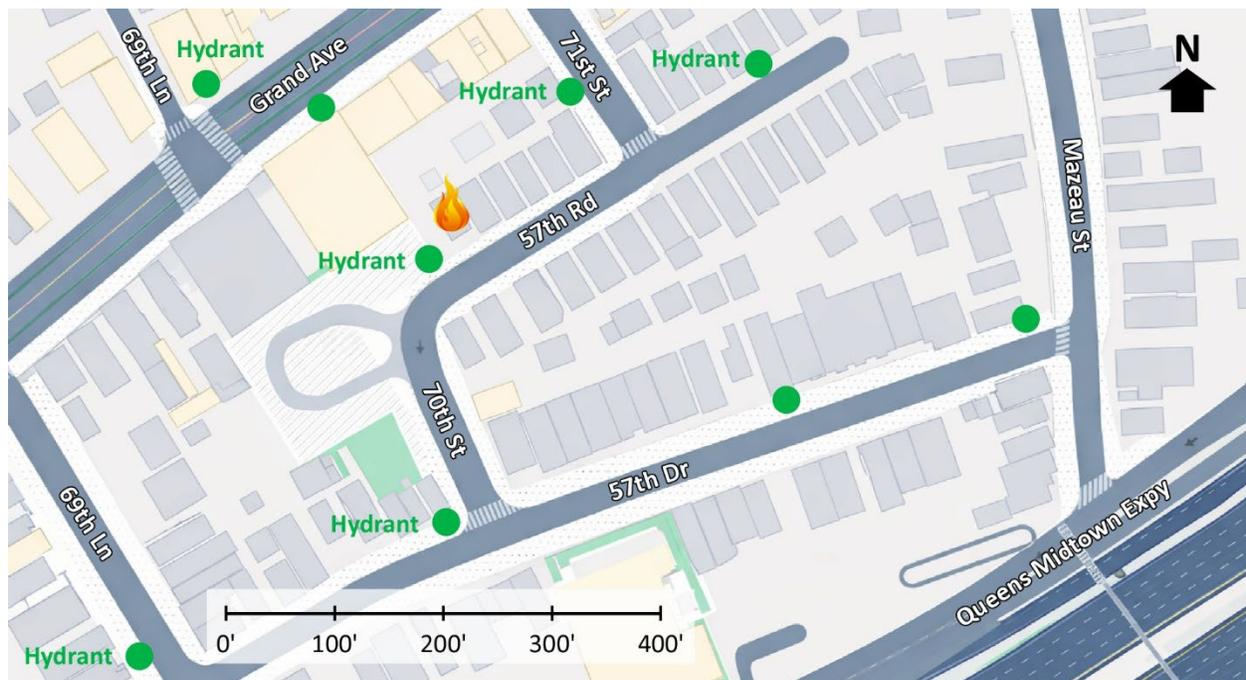
Learning Outcomes

Command officers perform effective ongoing 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 70-07 57th Rd, Flushing, New York on Sunday, December 28, 2025, at 02:52 (Skyler Fire, 2025; LLN NYC, 2025; & NYCFire.net, 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, 70-07 57th Rd, Flushing, NY]. Map data ©2025 Google. <https://bit.ly/3NrHu57>.

There are two nearby fire hydrants, one at the intersection of 57th Road and 70th Street and another on 71st Street between Grand Avenue and 57th Road. Additional hydrants are in the area as illustrated in Figure 1.

Figure 2. Aerial View



Note: Adapted from Google. (2025b). [Aerial view 70-07 57th Rd, Flushing, NY]. Imagery © Google, Imagery © Airbus Maxar Technologies, Map Data © 2025. <https://bit.ly/4sKU3c1>.

Figure 3. Alpha/Delta Corner and Exposures Delta 1 and 2



Note: Adapted from Google. (2022a). [Street view 70-07 57th Rd, Flushing, NY]. ©2025 Google. <https://bit.ly/4sPLFrC>.

Figure 4. Side Alpha and Exposures Delta 1 and 2



Note: Adapted from Google. (2022b). [Street view 70-07 57th Rd, Flushing, NY]. ©2025 Google <https://bit.ly/3Nwd7ug>.

Figure 5. Alpha/Bravo Corner



Note: Adapted from Google. (2022c). [Street view 70-07 57th Rd, Flushing, NY]. Map data ©2025 Google <https://bit.ly/49H4QLI>.

Figure 6. Side Charlie



Note: Adapted from Google. (2025c). [3d aerial view 70-07 57th Rd, Flushing, NY]. Imagery © Google, Imagery © Airbus Maxar Technologies, Map Data © 2025. <https://bit.ly/4b7Wy1F>.

The temperature is currently 27° F with wind from the northeast at 6 mph (Weather Underground, 2025). It is Sunday, December 28th and at 02:52 you are dispatched to a residential fire at 70-07 57th Road along with three engine companies, a ladder company, and a medic unit. **You are the command officer** and hear all first alarm companies go enroute. You anticipate that you will arrive shortly after the first two engines, medic unit, and the ladder company. The engine and ladder companies have four-person staffing¹

The incident location is in Flushing, an established urban residential and commercial district. Building stock in this neighborhood is a mix of densely built residential blocks, multifamily housing, small apartment buildings, and commercial occupancies. Residential occupancies are a mix of owner occupied and rentals. The community is diverse with a high proportion of households speaking a language other than English (Chinese, Spanish, and Korean among others) (Open AI, 2026). Structure fire frequency in this area is typical of the average residential neighborhoods in the city.

While you are enroute, dispatch provides an update that they are receiving calls reporting flames from the house and that people have jumped from the building, one having a broken leg. The dispatcher upgrades the assignment, adding two additional engines, an additional ladder company, two additional medic units, and an additional chief officer.

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



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

1. What critical factors would you consider when dispatched and during response?

Engine 1 arrives and provides the following initial radio report.

On-scene, small two story house, working fire Floors 1 and 2, stretching an attack line through Side Alpha for fire control and primary search, on a hydrant, offensive strategy, give me a 2nd alarm with Level 2 Staging on Grand Avenue at 69th Lane, Engine 1 is 57th Command.

57th Command provides the following follow-up report:

360 complete, lookout basement not involved, two stories all sides, security bars on Floor 1 windows and doors on Side Bravo and on the windows Side Charlie, potential for extension to Delta 1. Making a quick hit from the Alpha/Delta corner and stretching through Alpha for fire control and primary search on Floor 1. Medic 1 has three patients in front of Engine 1. Engine 1 is Side Alpha accountability.

Ladder 1 arrives and reports that they are Level 1 on 71st Street, at 57th Road. 57th Command provides the following tactical assignment:

Position on Side Alpha, stretch a second attack line off Engine 1, fire control and primary search, Floor 2.

Engine 2 arrives and reports that they are Level 1 on a hydrant on 71st Street, 57th Command provides the following tactical assignment:

Forward lay and stretch an attack line off your engine through Side Alpha of the Delta 1 for primary search and check for extension.

You approach this incident from the northeast on Grand Avenue. Access on 71st Street is blocked by the supply line laid by Engine 2. You continue to 69th Lane and access the fire from the south,

Your view of the incident is limited due to the narrow street and apparatus placement.

2. What actions will you take prior to contacting IC #1 (Engine 1) to begin command transfer? Consider if you would exit your command vehicle to perform reconnaissance before initiating a command transfer with IC #1.



Important! Answer questions three through nine in the form of communication you would have with dispatch and the companies operating at this incident. State the communications exactly as you would say them over the radio. Save explanation or discussion until after you have completed these questions.

Examine Figure 7 illustrating conditions on your arrival. You will get to watch the incident video later in this training.

Figure 7. Conditions on Arrival



Note: Adapted from Skyler Fire. (2025). *First due arrival FDNY Queens 2nd alarm box 7053 heavy fire throughout a private dwelling* [video]. <https://bit.ly/4pQXU4x>.

3. State your command transfer communication after IC #1 acknowledges your radio contact (exactly as you would transmit it).

Following your confirmation of the location and assignment of Engine 1, Ladder 1, and Engine 2 and request for a conditions, actions, and needs (CAN) report, IC #1 provides the following CAN:

Fire on Floor 1 is knocked down, Ladder 1 is applying water from the staircase to Floor 2 with limited effect, air status 60%, need companies for primary search in the Main Fire Occupancy.

4. State the communication you would have with IC #1 and dispatch to complete the command transfer exactly as you would transmit it.

As you complete the command transfer, Engine 2 contacts you with the following priority traffic message.

Command, Engine 2 with priority traffic. Working fire on Floor 2 with probable extension to the attic, I need a company for primary search in Delta 1 and a second company with a second line to assist with fire control on Floor 2

5. What action would you take based on the CAN from Engine 1 (IC #1), the priority traffic from Engine 2, and your observation of exterior conditions? State the communications you would have with the operating companies exactly as you would transmit them.

Dispatch advises that your additional resources are Engines 4 and 5, Ladder 4, Medic Units 2 and 3, and Chief 2.

6. Engine 3 arrives and reports that they are Level 1 on a hydrant on 57th Drive at 70th Street. State the tactical assignment you would give them exactly as you would transmit it.
7. Chief 2 arrives and reports that she is Level 1 on Grand Avenue and 71st Street. State the tactical assignment you would give them exactly as you would transmit it.
8. Ladder 4 reports that they and Engine 4 are Level 1 on Grand Avenue at 69th Lane. State the tactical assignment you would give these two companies exactly as you would transmit them.

Medic 1 contacts you with the following priority traffic radio message.

Command, Medic 1 with priority traffic. Our medic unit is blocked in by hoselines. We need a company to assist in moving three patients to Grand Avenue for transport.

9. Engine 5 reports that they and Engine 4 are Level 1 on Grand Avenue at 71st Street. State the tactical assignment you would give these two companies exactly as you would transmit them.



Reflect on your strategic decision-making and responses to questions one through seven before answering the next six questions. Think about what differences from conditions that you would anticipate (cues, patterns, or anomalies) inform your answers.

10. What was the problem?
11. What was getting in the way of achieving your tactical priorities?
12. Was there anything in this incident that could have hurt or killed you (right now)?
13. Was it reasonable to believe that the Main Fire Occupancy and Exposure Delta 1 were occupied?
14. Was there searchable space in the Main Fire Occupancy and Exposure Delta 1?
15. If you believed it was reasonable that these two houses were occupied and there was searchable space, what could you do about it?

Watch the [incident video](#) (Skyler Fire, 2025) from 01:02 to 11:02 before answering the remaining questions. Click the link or scan the QR code to access the video.



The initial assignment for the actual incident included two squad companies, three engine companies, three ladder companies, a rescue company, and two battalion chiefs. The second alarm included six engines, four ladder companies, and three battalion chiefs (NYCFire.net, 2025). FDNY squad company apparatus is an engine, but they are equipped with some ladder and rescue company equipment. Rescue companies are heavy rescues. FDNY engines may be staffed with four personnel, but ladder squads, ladder companies, and rescues generally have a higher staffing level (5-6 personnel).

A numeric geographic designation system is used by the FDNY with the “front” or street side of the building being designated as Side 1 and the other sides of the building numbered in a clockwise direction (2, 3, and 4). This is like the use of phonetic alphabet designations used in other parts of the country (Alpha, Bravo, Charlie, and Delta).

During initial stages of this incident, companies were operating based on standard procedures and defined company functions (engines do engine work, ladders do truck work, etc.) Towards the end of this video a battalion chief identifies on the radio as “command”. It is important to note that the video recording did not capture all the incident radio communications and only provides a single perspective on incident operations (predominantly the view from Side Alpha).

16. What positive aspects of communication and coordination did you identify in this video segment?
There were several!

17. What factors may have influenced time to get water on the fire (03:24 in the incident video)?

18. How did application of water from the exterior impact on fire control in the Main Fire Occupancy and protection of the Delta 1 Exposure? How could the effectiveness of initial exterior water application have been improved?

The incident commander likely was working out of his command vehicle on Side Alpha (which would be normal FDNY practice). In this incident, it would be unlikely that a command officer arriving after the first several companies would be able to position his or her command vehicle to provide visual observation of the incident.

19. If you normally work as the incident commander from a fixed position inside a command vehicle, how do you manage incident operations effectively when you cannot position to see the incident?

Additional Learning: Read [View to a Drill: Checking the Rear!](#) (Ciampo, 2025) and discuss the importance of 360-degree reconnaissance with the companies that you work with. If your companies have previously completed 10-Minute Training 26-04 Residential Fire with Exposures, discuss the similarities and difference between the Lincoln Fire & Rescue incident and this FDNY incident.

Get your companies out in their response areas and identify neighborhoods that have significant potential for extension to multiple buildings due to construction, proximity, and potential for wind influenced fire conditions. Walk the ground and talk about strategy and tactics!

References

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