



# In-Station Training

## TM 26-05 Residential Fire



### Author

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### Purpose

Cold weather and icy conditions along with significant fire involvement and an unusual building layout and configuration increase the challenges faced during fireground operations.

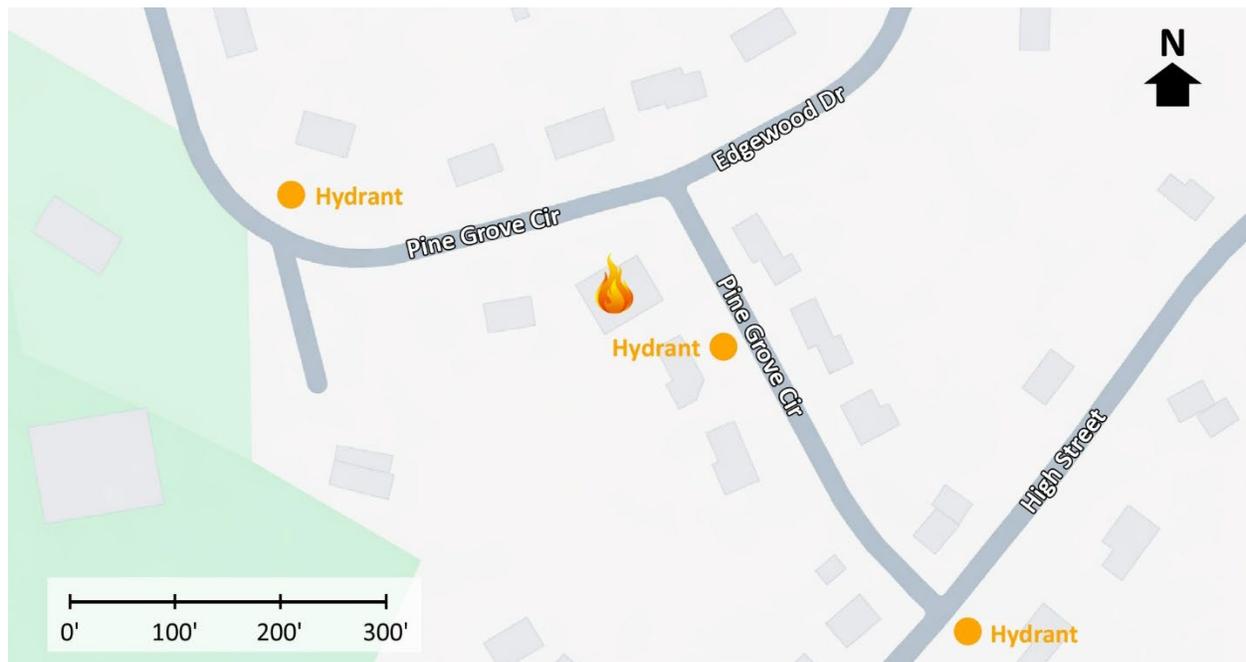
### Learning Outcomes

Initial incident commanders 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 in a duplex at 20 Pine Grove Circle in Uxbridge, Massachusetts on Wednesday, January 21, 2026, at 05:35 (Gregoire, 2026; Sesselman, 2026; Zillow, 2026; & Town of Uxbridge Assessor's Department). 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, 20 Pine Grove Circle, Uxbridge, MA]. Map data ©2026 Google. <https://bit.ly/4pUHd8b>.

The closest hydrant is on Pine Grove Circle just south of the main fire occupancy (in front of the Bravo 1 Exposure) and there are additional hydrants in the area as illustrated in Figure 1.

Figure 2. Aerial View



Note: Adapted from Google. (2025b). [Aerial view 20 Pine Grove Circle, Uxbridge, MA]. Imagery © Google, Imagery © Airbus Maxar Technologies, Map Data © 2026. <https://bit.ly/45vVHnT>.

Figure 3. Alpha/Bravo Corner & Bravo 1 Exposure



Note: Adapted from Google. (2023a). [Street view 20 Pine Grove Circle, Uxbridge, MA]. ©2026 Google. <https://bit.ly/4jWtGf0>.

Figure 4. Side Alpha



Note: Adapted from Google. (2023b). [Street view 20 Pine Grove Circle, Uxbridge, MA]. ©2026 Google. <https://bit.ly/3LV0bgX>.

Figure 5. Alpha/Delta Corner



Note: Adapted from Google. (2023c). [Street view 20 Pine Grove Circle, Uxbridge, MA]. ©2026 Google. <https://bit.ly/4kjc3L>.

Figure 6. Charlie/Delta Corner



Note: Adapted from Google. (2023d). [Street view 20 Pine Grove Circle, Uxbridge, MA]. ©2026 Google. <https://bit.ly/3ZDepWZ>.

This neighborhood is a suburban residential area with predominantly single-family homes. Most of the buildings in this neighborhood are wood frame construction and were built from the 1940s to present. Approximately 80.5% of the homes in this neighborhood are owner-occupied with low short term turnover. Rental properties comprise the remainder of the housing stock. Median age is in the mid-40s, and median income is higher than the average for the State of Massachusetts. (Open AI, 2025). The frequency of fire and emergency medical incidents in this area is typical of other residential neighborhoods in the town.

The temperature is currently 3° F with wind from the west southwest at 5 mph. (Weather Underground, 2026). **You are the officer of the first arriving engine company.** It is Wednesday, January 21<sup>st</sup> and you are dispatched to a residential fire at 20 Pine Grove Circle along with two other engines, a ladder company, medic unit, and command officer at 05:35. The engines and ladder have four-person staffing<sup>1</sup>.



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

<sup>1</sup> 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 with flames showing from 20 Pine Grove Circle.

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.

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. Watch the [incident video](#) (Gregoire, 2026) from 01:13 to 01:33 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: Adapted from Gregoire, M. (2026). \*Pre-arrival\* Uxbridge, Ma 2nd alarm, heavy fire conditions and temperatures in the single digits. Retrieved January 26, 2026, from <https://bit.ly/4t0Lud6>*

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 Side Delta are consistent with those on Side Alpha. You observe significant fire involvement on the interior of the Main Fire Occupancy and Side Charlie exterior of Exposure Alpha 1.

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 20 Pine Grove Circle 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 High Street at Pine Grove Circle. 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 were your tactical priorities and what was getting in the way of achieving them?
11. Was there anything in this incident that could have hurt or killed you (right now)?
12. Was it reasonable to believe that the Main Fire Occupancy and Alpha 1 Exposure were occupied?
13. Was there searchable space?
14. If you believed it was reasonable that there was searchable space, what could you do about it?

Watch the [incident video](#) (Gregoire, 2026) from 01:33 to 08:33 before answering the next several questions which are based on this video segment.



15. What influenced the effectiveness of the initial attack line, deployed on Side Bravo and how could the effectiveness of the initial attack line have been improved?
16. The first arriving engine was “on a hydrant”, hand stretching a supply line to the hydrant. What factors influenced this water supply evolution?
17. During incident operations the incident commander (C1) assisted or directly supervised establishing water supply from the hydrant and placement and operation of the initial attack line. How might this have impacted the chief’s ability to perform as the strategic IC?

**Additional Learning:** Within the eight functions of command, deployment is command function one. In this incident the first alarm included resources from multiple fire departments to develop an effective response force for a residential fire. However, initial staffing was limited. Strategy and tactical operations are impacted by both the number of companies operating on the incident and company level staffing.

Examine Figure 8 and discuss how to deal with obstructions such as the fence and vegetation that were encountered at this incident and how attack line positioning and angle impact effectiveness.

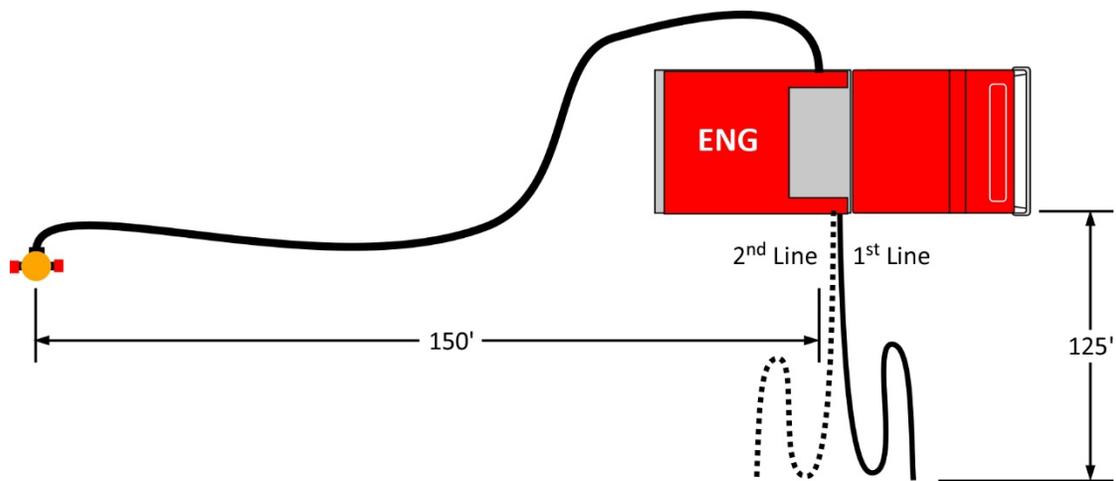
Figure 8. Closeup of Alpha/Bravo



*Note:* Adapted from Google. (2023e). [Street view 20 Pine Grove Circle, Uxbridge, MA]. ©2026 Google. <https://bit.ly/4k26QCS>.

Now get out on the drill ground and use the configuration of building access and water supply encountered in this incident for hose deployment as illustrated in Figure 9 and determine the most efficient way to deploy the attack lines and establish water supply as a single company.

Figure 9. Attack and Supply Line Deployment



Consider the following:

- Focus on getting the first line in operation before anything else (quick water on the fire matters)
- Having the apparatus operator start the “on a hydrant” evolution after supplying the attack line.
- Consider making the supply line connection at the apparatus first, so the apparatus operator can charge the line as soon as the hydrant connection is made.
- Maximizing efficiency in taking the hydrant to reduce the time that the apparatus operator is away from the apparatus).
- Stretching the second line after the first attack line is in operation (this can be done by the engine crew or apparatus operator depending on staffing).

## References

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