In-Station Training

TM 26-10 Commercial Fire

Author

Chief Ed Hartin

Purpose

Fires on the exterior of buildings can quickly extend to the interior. These types of incidents require quick and effective exterior water combined interior operations to check for extension or fire control.

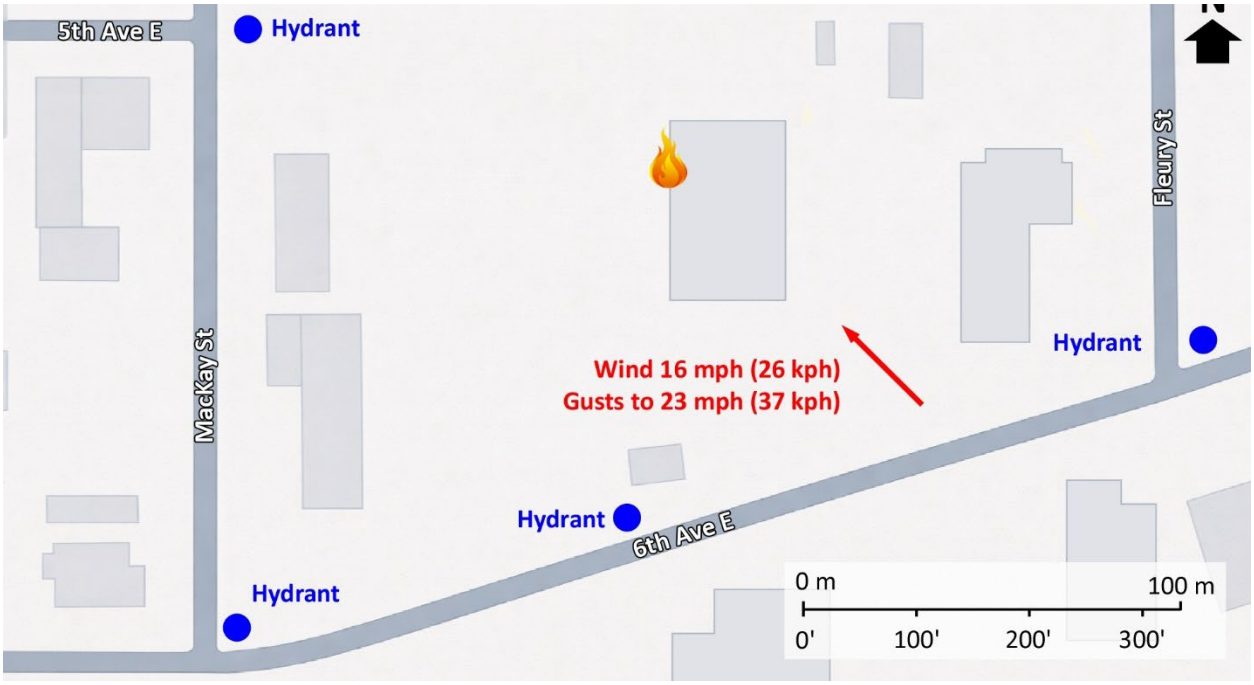
Learning Outcomes

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 commercial fire at Caltec Flooring, 310 6th Ave E, Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada on April 1, 2025, at 13:00 (FirevideosFD, 2025 & SaskToday.ca, 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. (2026a). [Map, 310 6th Ave E, Regina, SK]. Map data ©2026 Google. https://bit.ly/4clYHaD.

The closest hydrant is on 6th Ave E in front of the main fire occupancy. There are additional hydrants in the area as illustrated in Figure 1.

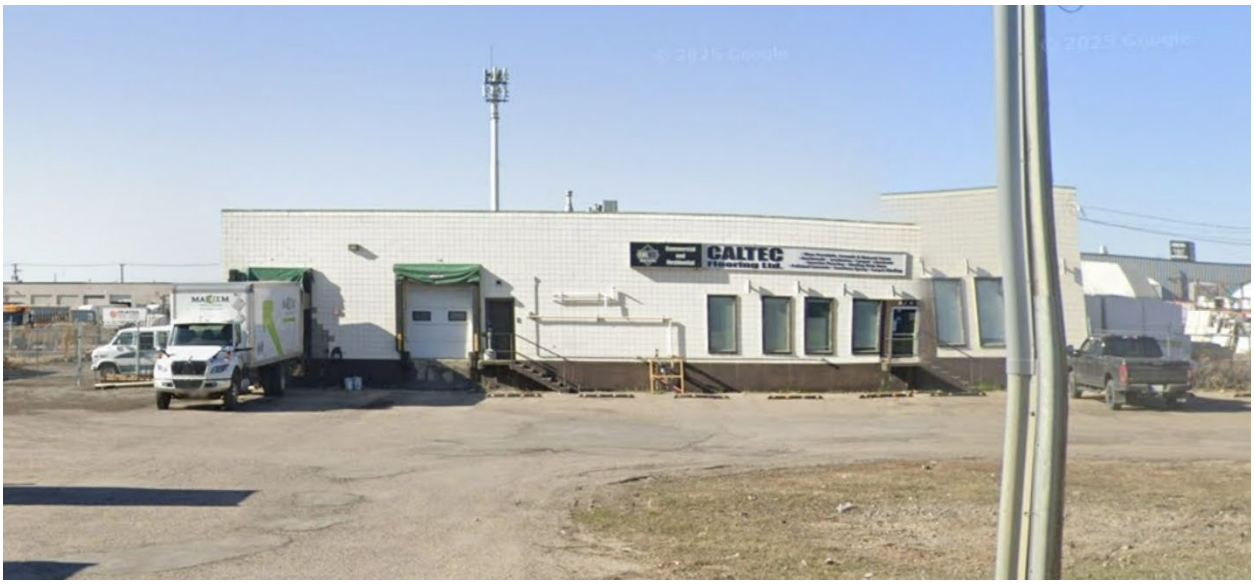
Figure 2. Aerial View

Note: Adapted from Google. (2026b). [Aerial view 310 6th Ave E, Regina, SK]. Imagery © Google, Imagery © Airbus Maxar Technologies, Map Data © 2026. https://bit.ly/4l6zu6g.

Figure 3. Alpha/Delta Corner

Note: Adapted from Google. (2025a). [Street view 310 6th Ave E, Regina, SK]. ©2026 Google. https://bit.ly/3MYeHoT.

Figure 4. Side Alpha



Note: Adapted from Google. (2025b). [Street view 310 6th Ave E, Regina, SK]. ©2026 Google. https://bit.ly/3OKbjyn.

Figure 5. Bravo/Charlie Corner 3D

Note: Adapted from Google. (2026c). [3d aerial view 310 6th Ave E, Regina, SK]. Imagery © Google, Imagery © Airbus Maxar Technologies, Map Data © 2026. https://bit.ly/4cVKEIW.

Figure 6. Alpha/Delta Corner 3D

Note: Adapted from Google. (2026d). [3d arial view 310 6th Ave E, Regina, SK]. Imagery © Google, Imagery © Airbus Maxar Technologies, Map Data © 2026. https://bit.ly/4aTlgCt.

310 6th Ave E is in a light industrial and service-commercial area within Regina's North Central area. The immediate surroundings consist primarily of one- to two-story warehouses, contractor shops, storage facilities, and automotive-related businesses, many dating from mid- to late-20th-century development and featuring metal or masonry construction, large bay doors, and fenced yards. Adjacent areas transition to older inner-city housing. This area and surrounding residential neighborhoods have higher than average demand for fire and emergency medical services (OpenAI, 2026).

The temperature is currently 31° F (-0.5° C) with wind from the southeast at 16 mph (26 kph) with gusts to 23 mph (37 kph). (Weather Underground, 2026). It is Tuesday, Aprikl 1st and you are dispatched to a commercial fire at 310 6th Ave East along with two other engines, a ladder company, medic unit, and command officer at 13:00. The engines and ladder have four-person staffing[1]. **You are the officer of the first arriving engine company**.

Time starts now! Answer the first nine 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 callers are reporting a fire in pallets of foam material outside Caltec Flooring at 310 6th Ave East and that the fire is next to the building.

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

2. Based on the dispatch information and what you know about this occupancy and response area, what do anticipate finding on arrival?

Important! Answer questions three through nine 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 (FirevideosFD, 2025) from 04:00 to 04:30 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 FirevideosFD. (2025). **Pre-arrival* heavy fire showing from side of building Regina, Saskatchewan.* https://bit.ly/3MYvvMj

3. State your initial radio report (IRR) exactly as you would transmit it to dispatch.

4. 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 (FirevideosFD, 2025) from 05:20 to 05:50 and examine Figure 8, illustrating condition on Side Bravo.

Figure 8. Conditions on Side Bravo

Note: Adapted from FirevideosFD. (2025). **Pre-arrival* heavy fire showing from side of building Regina, Saskatchewan.* https://bit.ly/3MYvvMj

5. Would you change the action you are taking or modify the assignments given to your crew? If so, what task orders would you provide?

6. State your follow up report exactly as you would transmit it to dispatch.

7. Ladder 1 arrives and reports that they are Level 1 on 6th Ave East at MacKay Street. State the tactical assignment you would give them exactly as you would transmit it.

8. Engine 2 arrives and reports that they are Level 1 on the hydrant on 6th Ave East at Fleury Street. State the tactical assignment you would give them exactly as you would transmit it.

9. 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 nine before answering the next eight questions. Think about what cues, patterns, or anomalies (differences from conditions that you would anticipate) informed your answers.

10. What information most influenced your expectations?

11. Did anything in the incident post-arrival challenge your initial expectations?

12. What was the actual problem once you arrived?

13. What were your tactical priorities and what was getting in the way of achieving them?

14. During initial operations, was there an immediate threat of serious injury or death to you, your crew, or other companies?

15. Was it reasonable to believe that the Main Fire Occupancy was occupied?

16. Was there searchable space?

17. If you believed it was reasonable that there was searchable space, what could you do about it?

In this incident, a quint arrived first, followed by several engines and a command officer. Watch the incident video (FirevideosFD, 2025) from 07:45 to 13:00 before answering the next several questions which are based on this video segment.

18. The first arriving company (quint) deployed an attack line on the exterior for fire control. What factors influenced the effectiveness or ineffectiveness of water application from this line?

19. A later arriving engine positioned adjacent to Side Bravo (outside the fence surrounding the main fire occupancy and placed a master stream into service. As with the attack line, what factors influenced the effectiveness or ineffectiveness of water application from this apparatus mounted master stream?

20. The incident video provided a limited view of incident operations on Side Bravo. It is unknown if companies operating at this incident deployed an attack line to the interior to check for extension or if they checked for extension without an attack line. Did you identify potential for extension to the interior as a critical factor? If so, how did you address this issue (e.g., task a company to check for extension, state this need in your command transfer conditions, actions, and needs (CAN) report)?

Additional Learning: Foam underlayment for flooring is typically polyethylene (PE), cross-linked polypropylene (XLPP), or EVA (Ethylene Vinyl Acetate) foam, designed for sound reduction, moisture protection, and comfort under laminate, vinyl, and engineered wood flooring.

These types of materials have varied flammability characteristics and may or may not be manufactured with a fire-retardant additive to decrease their flammability. Thermoplastic materials will melt, and many are highly flammable. It is important to recognize the difference between fire behavior of these materials when in normal use as floor underlayment and in bulk, palletized storage such as in this incident.

Examine Figure 9 and discuss how the physical and chemical properties of this foam underlayment and the arrangement and configuration of the piles and palletized storage likely impacted fire behavior and the effectiveness of water application in this incident.

Figure 9. Burning Palletized Foam Underlayment

Note: Adapted from FirevideosFD. (2025). **Pre-arrival* heavy fire showing from side of building Regina, Saskatchewan.* https://bit.ly/3MYvvMj

Discuss alternatives for overhaul the burning palletized foam products involved in this incident. What are the risks and benefits of each method you identified? Does your agency have access to a forklift or other heavy equipment and personnel that are qualified in its operation and use of self-contained breathing apparatus? What would be the challenges or issues in using on-site equipment owned by the building occupant?

How would the challenges of this incident have changed if the burning pallets of foam underlayment were inside the warehouse, rather than outside?

References

FirevideosFD. (2025). **Pre-arrival* heavy fire showing from side of building Regina, Saskatchewan.* Retrieved March 2, 2026, from https://bit.ly/3MYvvMj.

Google. (2025a). [Street view 310 6th Ave E, Regina, SK]. ©2026 Google. Retrieved March 2, 2026, from https://bit.ly/3MYeHoT.

Google. (2025b). [Street view 310 6th Ave E, Regina, SK]. ©2026 Google. Retrieved March 2, 2026, from https://bit.ly/3OKbjyn.

Google. (2026a). [Map, 310 6th Ave E, Regina, SK]. Map data ©2026 Google. Retrieved March 2, 2026, from https://bit.ly/4clYHaD.

Google. (2026b). [Aerial view 310 6th Ave E, Regina, SK]. Imagery © Google, Imagery © Airbus Maxar Technologies, Map Data © 2026. Retrieved March 2, 2026, from https://bit.ly/4l6zu6g.

Google. (2026c). [3d aerial view 310 6th Ave E, Regina, SK]. Imagery © Google, Imagery © Airbus Maxar Technologies, Map Data © 2026. Retrieved March 2, 2026, from https://bit.ly/4cVKEIW.

Google. (2026d). [3d arial view 310 6th Ave E, Regina, SK]. Imagery © Google, Imagery © Airbus Maxar Technologies, Map Data © 2026. Retrieved March 2, 2026, from https://bit.ly/4aTlgCt.

OpenAI. (2026). *ChatGPT 5.2* [Large language model]. Retrieved March 2, 2026, from https://chat.openai.com/chat.

SaskToday.ca. (2025). *Firefighters called to 6th Avenue East.* Retrieved March 2, 2026, from https://bit.ly/4rbem0b.

Weather Underground (2025). *Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada weather history* [historical weather April 1, 2025]. Retrieved March 2, 2026, from https://bit.ly/405qsgg.