



In-Station Training

TM 26-18 Residential Fire



Author

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Purpose

Closely spaced wood frame buildings present a significant exposure hazard and risk of extension beyond the main fire occupancy.

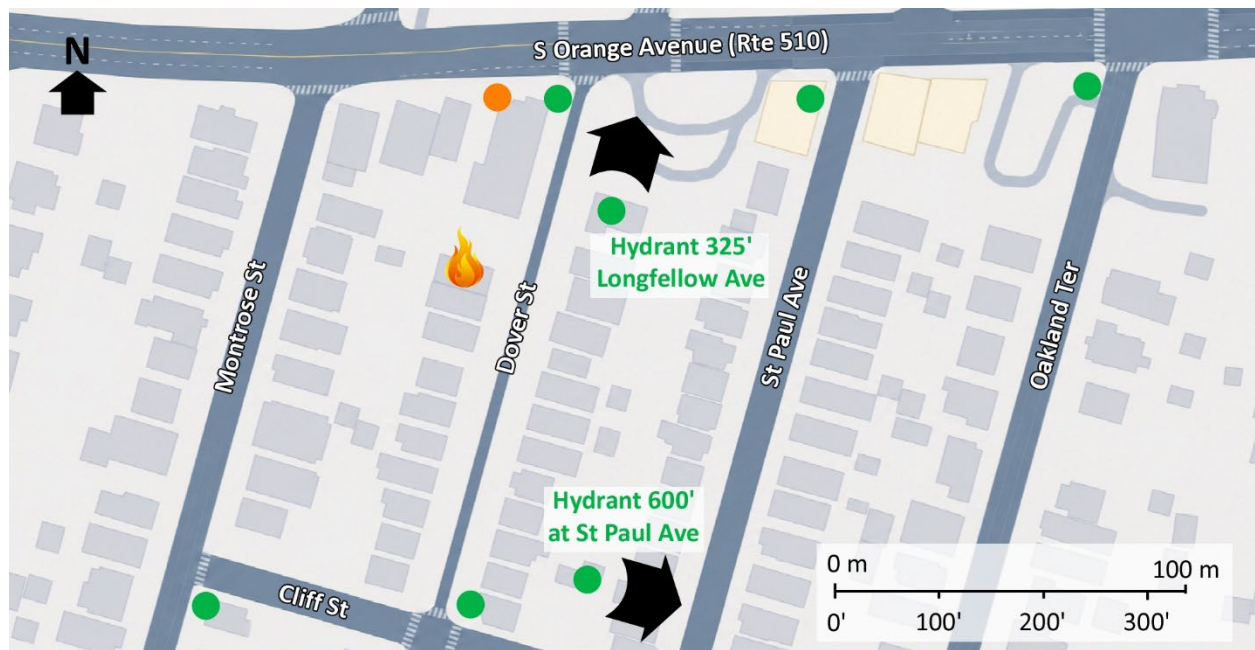
Learning Outcomes

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 at 17 Dover Street in Newark, New Jersey on Saturday, March 7, 2026, at 04:46 (Jersey Shore Fire Response, 2026; Eyewitness News ABC 7, 2026; & Broadcastify, 2026a, 2026b, & 2026c). 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, 17 Dover Street, Newark, NJ]. Map data ©2026 Google. <https://bit.ly/48WE5z>.

The closest hydrant is at the intersection of Dover Street and South Orange Avenue. Hydrants in the area are illustrated in Figure 1.

Figure 2. Aerial View



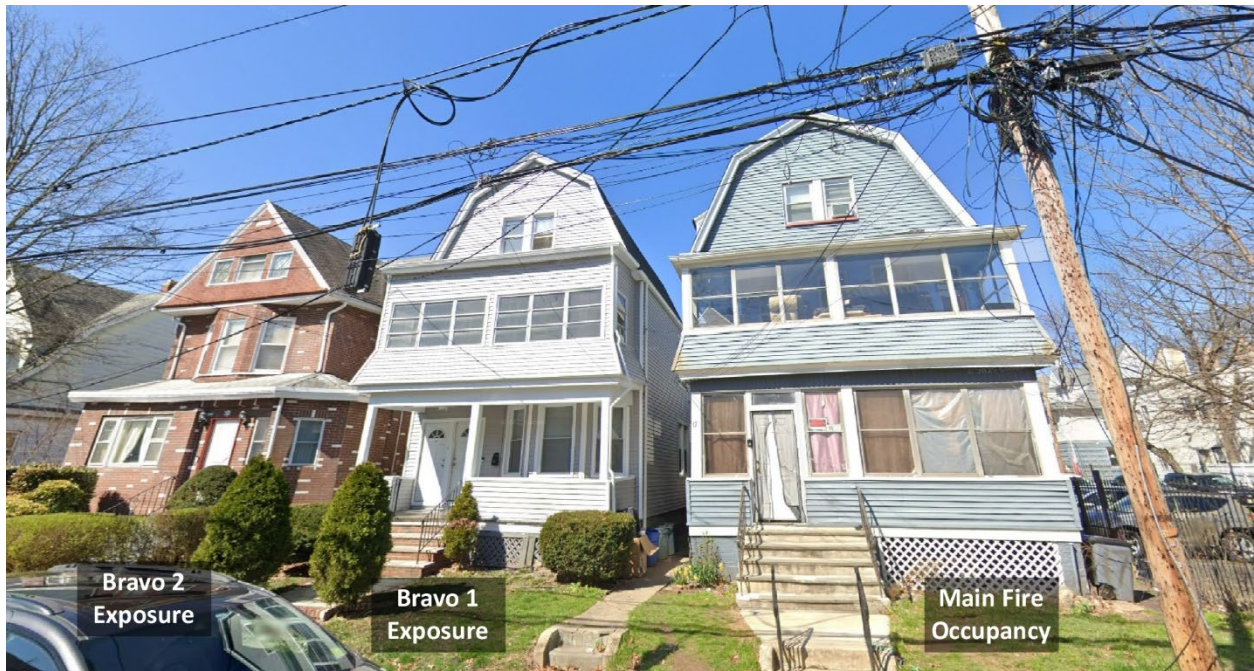
Note: Adapted from Google. (2026b). [Aerial view 17 Dover Street, Newark, NJ]. Imagery © Google, Imagery © Airbus Maxar Technologies, Map Data © 2026. <https://bit.ly/4mShe1r>.

Figure 3. Alpha/Delta Corner



Note: Adapted from Google. (2023a). [Street view 17 Dover Street, Newark, NJ]. ©2026 Google. <https://bit.ly/4sQiHXf>.

Figure 4. Side Alpha



Note: Adapted from Google. (2023b). [Street view 17 Dover Street, Newark, NJ]. ©2026 Google. <https://bit.ly/3QASJtu>.

Figure 5. Alpha/Bravo Corner



Note: Adapted from Google. (2023c). [Street view 17 Dover Street, Newark, NJ]. ©2026 Google. <https://bit.ly/4t1imkG>.

Figure 6, Charlie/Delta Corner



Note: Adapted from Google. (2026c). [3d aerial view 17 Dover Street, Newark, NJ]. Imagery © Google, Imagery © Airbus Maxar Technologies, Map Data © 2026. <https://bit.ly/3Qoweli>.

17 Dover Street is in a dense urban residential neighborhood, characterized by a grid street layout and closely spaced buildings. The surrounding area consists primarily of multifamily housing, including two- to four-story brick rowhouses, attached dwellings, and small apartment buildings, much of it constructed between the late 1800s and early 1900s with some mid-20th-century infill. Census data indicate a predominance of renter-occupied housing and high residential density. The population reflects both long-term residents and ongoing turnover typical of urban rental markets. A wide range of languages are spoken, with many households reporting Spanish and other languages in addition to English. (Open AI, 2026). Like other densely populated areas of the community, fire and emergency medical call volume in this area is high.

The temperature is currently 37° F (3° C) with wind from the south southeast at 5 mph (8 kph). (Weather Underground, 2026). It is Saturday, March 7th and you are dispatched to a **residential fire with entrapment on the third floor** at 17 Dover Street along with four other engines, two ladder companies, medic unit, and two command officers at 04:46. The engines and ladder have four-person staffing¹. **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 until after you have answered these questions.

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

While responding, dispatch provides an update that there are **multiple calls and that callers are reporting there are exposures and people trapped on the first and third floors**. You hear the other engines, ladders, medic unit, and command officers go enroute.

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 you 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 simultaneously with you, the second arriving engine will arrive several minutes later, followed by a command officer. The remainder of the first alarm will arrive after the first command officer.

Examine Figure 7 illustrating conditions on arrival. The incident video starts after the arrival of the first two companies.

Figure 7. Conditions on Arrival



Note: Adapted from Jersey Shore fire Response. (2026). *Fully Involved 2nd alarm house fire – two homes burning Newark New Jersey 3/7/26* [video]. Retrieved April 26, 2026., from <https://bit.ly/4uaJRcn>

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?

Conditions on Sides Bravo and Charlie are consistent with those observed from Sides Alpha and Delta. Status of occupants in the Main Fire Occupancy and the Bravo 1 Exposure are unknown except for the information provided by dispatch.

Before answering the next five questions, watch the [incident video](#) from 01:20 to 02:00 illustrating conditions immediately after you arrive. Click the link above or scan the QR code to access the video.



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 South Orange at Dover. 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 a hydrant at South Orange and Dover. 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 or Exposure Bravo 1 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?

First arriving companies stretched an attack line on Side Alpha for fire control and initiated a primary search in the Bravo 1 Exposure. Watch the [incident video](#) from 02:00 to 07:30 before answering the remaining questions. Click the link above or scan the QR code to access the video.



18. What factors influenced the effectiveness of exterior fire control and/or exposure protection by the initial attack line? What options may have increased the effectiveness of exterior fire control on the Main Fire Occupancy?

19. After limited exterior application of water, the initial attack line stretched through Side Alpha for fire control. Was this consistent with your plan of action in this 10-Minute Training? What cues would indicate that a transition to the interior was indicated?

At 02:47 in the incident video, Ladder 11 reported fire on Floor 2 of the Bravo 1 Exposure. At 06:24 in the incident video, an engine company placed a master stream into operation to protect the Bravo 1 Exposure and fire control in the Main Fire Occupancy.

20. What actions did you take in this 10-Minute Training to address primary search and fire extension into the Bravo 1 Exposure? What critical factors influenced your decision?

At 06:41 in the incident video apparatus begin sounding their air horns repeatedly. This is typically a signal to abandon the building. A short time later, dispatch broadcasts alert tones and an emergency traffic radio message for all companies operating at 17 Dover Street “to strategically withdraw from the building” followed by a repeat stating “strategically evacuate from the structure”

21. What is the difference between an order to abandon the building versus an order to withdraw from the building (in your agency)? How is evacuation different than withdraw or abandon? If you were operating on Floor 1 of the Main Fire Occupancy when the audible signal was sounded, what action would you take? What action would you take if you were operating in the Bravo 1 Exposure?

Additional Learning

Watch incident video as this incident continued and listen to radio communications during the incident with your crew. The incident video includes radio traffic (but is sometimes difficult to understand). The incident audio is a recording of Channels 1-4. Combined, the audio track from the video and audio recording of Channels 1-4 captures most, if not all the incident radio communications.

Incident Video: Watch the [incident video](#) from 07:30 to 30:00. Click the link above or scan the QR code to access the video. Recognize that the video only provides a single view of the incident.



Incident Audio: Listen to the [incident audio](#). This audio segment has silence truncated to condense the first 90 minutes of incident operations to approximately 15:30. Click the link above or scan the QR code to access the audio.



Questions for Discussion: See what lessons the members of your crew identify from the incident video and audio. Use some or all the following questions as a guide in discussing the lessons learned from the incident video and audio recording of incident radio communications:

- What impact did building construction likely have on fire development and the effectiveness of tactical operations?
- How might the use of multiple radio channels impact incident communications?

- What could be the impact of a personal alert safety system (PASS) device sounding continuously on the fireground? Why might the firefighters and officers working at this incident have ignored this audible alarm?
- Use of the term “divisions” to refer to “floors” of a building is common in some parts of the United States. How might this cause confusion about incident organization?
- Were you able to identify the incident organization (who was working for whom and who was responsible for what) based on the incident radio communications? What impact might this have had on accountability?
- The IC was positioned in front of the main fire occupancy (white helmet and quilted uniform jacket). What were the advantages and disadvantages of this working position?
- Later in the incident, after the withdrawal of companies from the Main Fire Occupancy, there was a second radio traffic message to “evacuate from the structure”. After this message, companies can be seen working on Floor 2 of the Bravo 1 Exposure. Did you think that this message was for companies in the Bravo 1? How can a strategic shift and orders to withdraw be clearly communicated when remaining offensive in an exposure, but not in the Main Fire Occupancy? What is the risk of returning companies to the interior after a strategic shift to defense, particularly when aerial master streams remain in operation?
- What factors influenced the effectiveness of the aerial master stream on fire control in the Main Fire Occupancy?
- Did you think that there was potential for extension from the Bravo 1 Exposure to the Bravo 2? Did you identify any actions taken to protect the Bravo 2 exposure based on the incident video or incident audio? Given conditions in the Bravo 2 as the incident progressed, what might be reasonable precautions to prevent extension to the Bravo 2?

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