



In-Station Training

TM 26-21 Residential Fire



Author

Chief Ed Hartin

Purpose

Attached exposures such as encountered in fires involving row houses or townhouses can present a significant challenge, particularly when fire has extended to multiple occupancies prior to arrival.

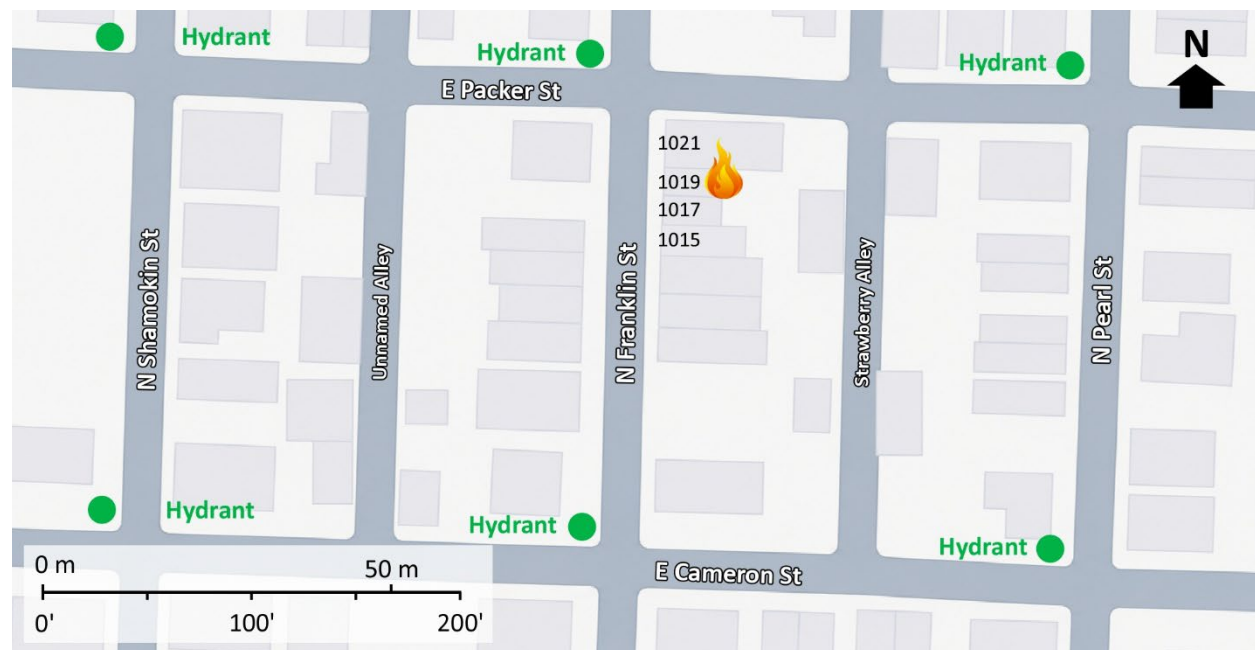
Learning Outcomes

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 1019 North Franklin Street, Shamokin, Pennsylvania on Monday, May 4, 2026, at 08:30 (Coal Region Explorer, 2026; Witt, 2026; WNEP, 2026; & Broadcastify, 2026a, 2026b, 2026c). Review the map and photos (Figures 1-5) to gain an understanding of the building and area involved.

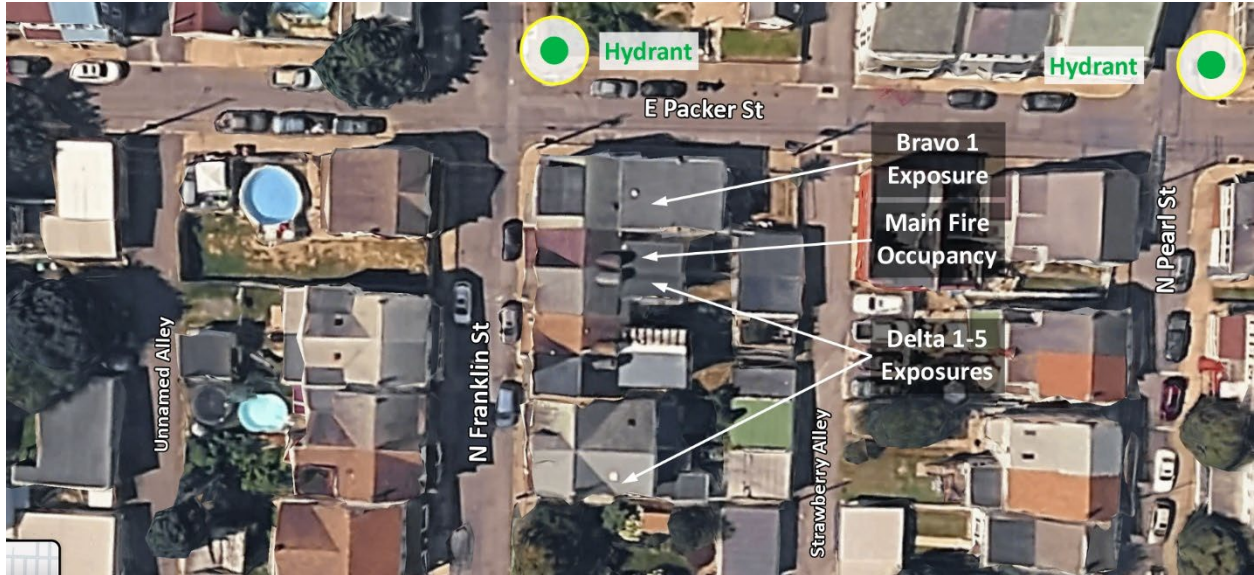
Figure 1. Map of the Incident Area



Note: Adapted from Google. (2026a). [Map, 1019 N Franklin Street, Shamokin, PA]. Map data ©2026 Google. <https://bit.ly/3R1IQ9J>.

The closest hydrant is on the corner of North Franklin Street and East Packer Street and there are other hydrants in the area as illustrated in Figures 1 and 2.

Figure 2. Aerial View



Note: Adapted from Google. (2026b). [Aerial view 1019 N Franklin Street, Shamokin, PA]. Imagery © Google, Imagery © Airbus Maxar Technologies, Map Data © 2026. <https://bit.ly/4frzrkD>.

Figure 3. Side Alpha



Note: Adapted from Zillow. (2022). 1021 N Franklin St, Shamokin, PA 17872 [Bravo 1 Exposure]. <https://bit.ly/4utBXve>. Realtor.com. (2020). 1017 N Franklin St, Shamokin, PA 17872 [Delta 1 Exposure]. <https://bit.ly/3PurlwX>. [Image Created with ChatGPT 5.5, DALL-E] Open Ai, (2025).

Figure 4. 3D Aerial-Bravo/Charlie Corner



Adapted from Google. (2026c). [Aerial view 1019 N Franklin Street, Shamokin, PA]. Imagery © Google, Imagery © Airbus Maxar Technologies, Map Data © 2026. <https://bit.ly/4uOhCk7>.

Figure 5. 3D Aerial-Charlie/Delta Corner



Adapted from Google. (2026d). [Aerial view 1019 N Franklin Street, Shamokin, PA]. Imagery © Google, Imagery © Airbus Maxar Technologies, Map Data © 2026. <https://bit.ly/4uO3Q0R>.

This incident is in a densely populated urban residential area in a small city with closely spaced housing on a traditional street grid. The surrounding area is dominated by older attached rowhouses, detached homes, and small multifamily buildings. Most of the housing stock in this area was built before 1939. Approximately half the housing stock is attached, single-family units (row homes). A slight majority of

homes are owner occupied. English as the predominant language (Open AI, 2026). Fire and emergency medical call volume in this area is typical of other areas of the community.

The temperature is currently 54° F (12° C) with wind from the south southwest at 5 mph (8 kph). (Weather Underground, 2026). It is Monday May 4th and you are dispatched to a **residential fire in the 1000 block of North Franklin Street** along with two other engines, a ladder company, medic unit, and command officer at 08:30. The engines and ladder have four-person staffing¹. **You are the officer of the first arriving engine company.**



Time starts now! Answer the first ten questions within the next 10 minutes. Save discussion until after you have answered these questions.

While responding, dispatch provides an update that there are **multiple calls and that callers are reporting “flames and smoke”**. You hear the other engines, ladder, medic unit, and command officer go enroute.

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

Dispatch provides a second update, with an address of **1019 North Franklin Street, stating “8 in a row, middle of the row, C Side” and advises that law enforcement is on scene, reporting that there are burn victims.**

2. Does this change the critical factors that you would consider during response? What conversations would you have with your crew based on this additional information?
3. Based on the dispatch information and what you know about this occupancy and response area, what do you anticipate finding on arrival?

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



Important! Answer questions four through ten 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 will arrive from the west on East Packer Street. You anticipate the ladder company will arrive several minutes after you, followed by the second arriving engine, and command officer. The medic unit and third arriving engine will arrive after the command officer.

Watch the [incident video](#) (Coal Region Explorer, 2026) from 00:27 to 01:07 and examine Figure 6 illustrating conditions on arrival. Click the link above or scan the QR code to access the video.

Figure 6. Conditions on Arrival



Note: Adapted Coal Region Explorer. (2026). *3rd alarm Franklin St. Shamokin PA* (pre arrival) [video]. <https://bit.ly/4eRI4pF>

4. State your initial radio report (IRR) exactly as you would transmit it to dispatch.
5. 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](#) from 01:07 to 01:27. Click the link or scan the QR code to access the video. You are unable to complete 360-degree reconnaissance due to the configuration of the buildings and obstacles. However, you can obtain a limited view of Side Charlie from Strawberry Alley as illustrated in Figure 7.



Figure 7. Conditions on Side Charlie



Note: Adapted Coal Region Explorer. (2026). *3rd alarm Franklin St. Shamokin PA* (pre arrival) [video]. <https://bit.ly/4eRI4pF>

Dispatch reports that law enforcement has the burn victim at Franklin and East Packer Street. Law enforcement also advises that they have evacuated occupants from the immediately adjacent exposures.

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

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

8. Ladder 1 arrives and reports that they are Level 1 at East Cameron and Franklin. State the tactical assignment you would give them exactly as you would transmit it.

9. Engine 2 arrives and reports that they are Level 1 on a hydrant at East Cameron and North Pearl. State the tactical assignment you would give them exactly as you would transmit it.

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

11. What information most influenced your expectations?

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

13. What was the actual problem once you arrived?

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

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

16. Was it reasonable to believe that the Main Fire Occupancy or Exposure Bravo 1 was occupied?

17. Was there searchable space?

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

To provide context, the Shamokin Fire Bureau operates four engines, a ladder company, and rescue squad staffed with volunteer firefighters and officers.

In this incident the chief arrived first. A ladder company and engine arrived from the south on North Franklin Street. The engine laid a supply line from the hydrant at East Cameron and North Franklin. Watch the [incident video](#) from 01:47 to 08:00 before answering the remaining questions. Click the link above or scan the QR code to access the video.



Shortly after arrival, dispatch advised that law enforcement reported that the fire was now “in 1015” (the Delta 2 Exposure).

19. How did you address law enforcement’s report of a burn victim? What factors influenced your decision?

20. The first arriving ladder company appears to have been tasked with primary search of all occupancies including the main fire occupancy and the exposures. Was this consistent with the assignment you gave Ladder 1 in this 10-Minute Training? What factors influenced your decision?

21. What assignment did you give Engine 2? Did you have them stretch an attack line into the Main Fire Occupancy, the Bravo 1, Delta 1, or Delta 2? What factors influenced your decision?

Additional Learning

There are multiple opportunities for additional learning, examining layout and construction of the buildings involved in this incident, watching an additional segment of the incident video, and listening to radio communications from the incident.

There are no photos of the interior of the Main Fire Occupancy, but there are multiple photos of the exterior and interior of the [Bravo 1](#) (Zillow, 2022) and [Delta 1](#) (Realtor.com, 2020) Exposures (note that the Delta 1 was vacant at the time the photos were taken but likely was occupied at the time of the fire). The Main Fire Occupancy would have had similar interior layout and configuration as the Delta 1 Exposure. Examine the interior and exterior photos.

Incident Video: Watch the [incident video](#) (Coal Region Explorer, 2026) from 08:00 to 20:00. Click the link above or scan the QR code to access the video.



Incident Audio: Listen to the [incident audio](#) (Hartin, 2026). This audio segment has silence truncated to condense the first 45:00 of incident operations to approximately 24:00. Click the link above or scan the QR code to access the audio. The term “fire police” in the audio refers to fire service volunteers who provide traffic and bystander control at emergency incidents (this is common in Pennsylvania and some other areas of the United States).



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

- How might building construction, arrangement and floor plan factors have complicated initial fireground operations.
- How did fire behavior change during this video segment? What cues related to fire behavior and the impact of tactical operations did you observe?
- Prior to deployment of the aerial ladder, the electrical utility company shut down the grid in the area. How can overhead power lines impact on the use of aerial devices (and portable ladders).

It appeared from video and audio that the IC was working outside a vehicle on Side Alpha and directly supervising all the companies operating at this incident, with some tactical or task level direction being provided by other chief officers.

- A major portion of incident communication was face-to-face from the IC to the companies and chief officers. How did this impact on your ability to track the evolving situation and assignment of companies? How might this impact on company level situational awareness?
- What factors impacted on the IC’s ability to track the position and function of resources operating at this incident?
- How would the use of the order model have improved incident communications?

- 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?
- How would the use of divisions as an organizational element have improved the IC’s ability to manage incident operations and the effectiveness of tactical supervision as well as strategic and tactical accountability?

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