



In-Station Training

TM 26-24 Commercial Fire



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Purpose

Company officers pre-arrival anticipation and planning is an essential element of size-up. However, in some cases conditions are different than anticipated, necessitating a rapid shift in the company officer's frame of reference and tactics.

Learning Outcomes

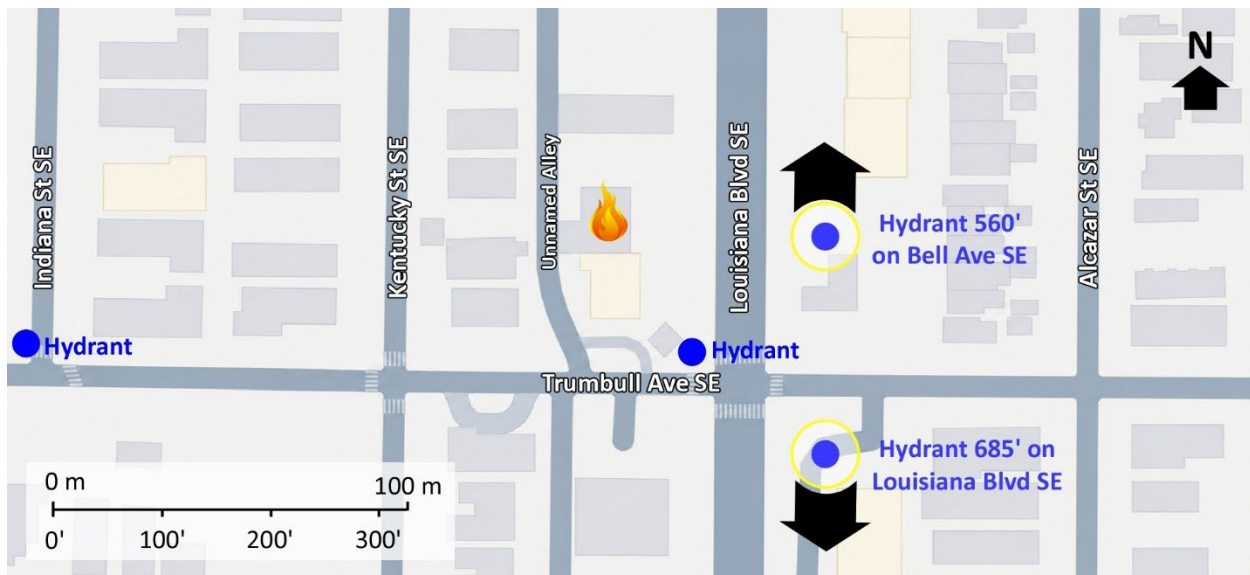
Initial incident commanders perform an effective size-up, select an appropriate strategy, and implement tactics based on the strategic decision-making model.

Conducting the Drill

This incident involved a commercial fire at Ed Erlers Shorin Ryu Dojo located at 533 Louisiana Boulevard SE, Albuquerque, New Mexico on Friday, May 15, 2026, at 03:11 (Albuquerque Fire Rescue, 2026).

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, 533 Louisiana Boulevard SE, Albuquerque, NM]. Map data ©2026 Google. <https://bit.ly/43OaB7w>.

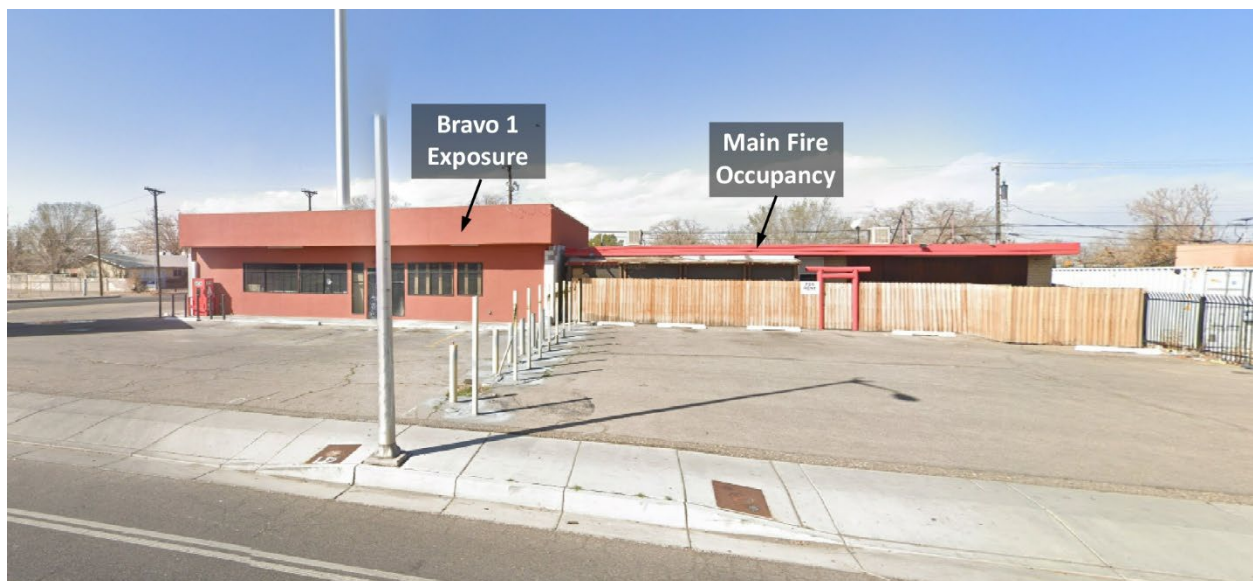
The closest hydrant is on the corner of Louisiana Boulevard SE and Trumbull Avenue SE and there are other hydrants in the area as illustrated in Figures 1 and 2.

Figure 2. Aerial View



Note: Adapted from Google. (2026b). [Aerial view 533 Louisiana Boulevard SE, Albuquerque, NM]. Imagery © Google, Imagery © Airbus Maxar Technologies, Map Data © 2026. <https://bit.ly/4fNKZ23>.

Figure 3. Side Alpha



Note: Adapted from Google. (2025a). [Street view 533 Louisiana Boulevard SE, Albuquerque, NM]. ©2025 Google. <https://bit.ly/4uhMsB2>.

Figure 4. Alpha/Delta Corner



Note: Adapted from Google. (2025b). [Street view 533 Louisiana Boulevard SE, Albuquerque, NM].
©2025 Google. <https://bit.ly/3PM191j>.

Figure 5. Bravo/Charlie Corner – Bravo 1 Exposure



Note: Adapted from Google. (2025c). [Street view 533 Louisiana Boulevard SE, Albuquerque, NM].
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Figure 6. 3D Aerial View Charlie/Delta Corner



Adapted from Google. (2026c). [Aerial view 533 Louisiana Boulevard SE, Albuquerque, NM]. Imagery © Google, Imagery © Airbus Maxar Technologies, Map Data © 2026. <https://bit.ly/4ujAMOG>.

533 Louisiana Boulevard SE is in a mixed residential and commercial area on the city's east side characterized by apartment complexes, mobile home parks, small businesses, offices, and post-World War 2 single-family neighborhoods. Development in the area occurred largely between the 1950s and 1970s, with a housing stock that includes detached homes, multifamily buildings, and manufactured housing. This area has a mix of owner- and renter-occupied housing, with renter occupancy common in multifamily areas. The population is diverse and includes both long-term residents and more mobile households. English and Spanish are widely spoken, with additional languages reflecting the city's multicultural population.

The temperature is currently 63° F (17° C) with wind from the southeast at 7 mph (11 kph). (Weather Underground, 2026). It is Friday May 15th and **you are dispatched as a single company to an outside fire** in the 500 block of Louisiana Boulevard Southeast with a cross street of Trumbell Ave Southeast. You agency's Engines and ladders have four-person staffing¹. **You are the officer of the engine company.**



Time starts now! Answer the first ten 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.

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

While responding, dispatch does not provide any additional information. If you inquire, dispatch reports that they had “a couple of calls both reporting an outside fire, but the callers were unclear on the location, other than it was on Louisiana Boulevard Southeast just north of Trumbull Avenue Southeast, placing the fire in the 500 block.

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



Important! Answer questions three 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 south on Louisiana Boulevard Southeast. Examine Figure 7 illustrating conditions on arrival. The incident video starts after the engine company’s arrival.

Figure 7. Conditions on Arrival



Note: Adapted from Albuquerque Fire Rescue. (2026). Engine 5, Working Fire. Retrieved June 6, 2026, from <https://bit.ly/49FFUoC/> & Google. (2025a). [Street view 533 Louisiana Boulevard SE, Albuquerque, NM]. ©2025 Google. <https://bit.ly/4uhMsB2>. [Image Created with ChatGPT 5.5, DALL·E] Open Ai, (2025).

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

If you increased the resource determination to a first alarm assignment for a commercial fire, additional four engines, two trucks, a medic unit, and two command officers will be dispatched. You anticipate that the first of these additional resources will be a ladder company and they will arrive in approximately five minutes, followed by the other first alarm resources.

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 from 00:26 to 02:26. 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.



5. Would you change the action you are taking or modify the assignments given to your crew based on additional observation of conditions? If so, what task orders would you provide?
6. State your follow up report exactly as you would transmit it to dispatch.

Watch the [incident video](#) from 04:09 to 05:09. Click the link or scan the QR code to access the video. Note that in this video the first arriving engine has stretched and is operating two 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ " (45 mm) lines.



7. What task level direction will you provide to your crew as you begin to make progress on fire control as illustrated in the incident video.
8. Ladder 1 arrives and reports that they are Level 1 on Louisiana to the South. 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 Louisiana and Bell. 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?

In this incident, Engine 5, the first arriving company, anticipated finding an outside fire, but was challenged by the need to quickly change their frame of reference to a commercial structure fire. The operated with limited staffing for an extended period. During that time, Engine 5 initiated fire control using apparatus tank water while establishing a continuous water supply from a nearby hydrant and then stretched a second attack line to reinforce the initial 1 ¾" attack line prior to the arrival of additional resources. Exceptional work!

19. While a significant amount of work was accomplished in a short amount of time, what fine tuning do you believe the Engine 5 crew could do to make their initial operations even more effective when working with limited resources?

20. Engine 5 focused some level of effort on applying water to the eave line above the fence and one member of the crew removed part of the fence that was shielding the fire from water application. What might have improved the effectiveness of these task level actions?

21. What alternative tactics may have been effectively used by Engine 5? What would have been necessary for Engine 5 to implement these tactics?

Additional Learning

In an offensive strategy, quick water on the fire is essential and is dependent on staffing and the efficiency of task level actions required to deploy and place an attack line into operation. This becomes more challenging when staffing is limited.

In this incident, Engine 5 was “on a hydrant”, which is close enough for the apparatus operator to establish their own continuous water supply. “On a hydrant” should be a standard tactical play. It is essential for the apparatus operator and company officer to know how close the hydrant must be when using this tactical option. To paraphrase Clint Eastwood in Magnum Force, an apparatus operator’s got to know his or her limitations (and capabilities). Determining apparatus operator capabilities and limitations to stretch to the hydrant can be another excellent skills and physical training activity.

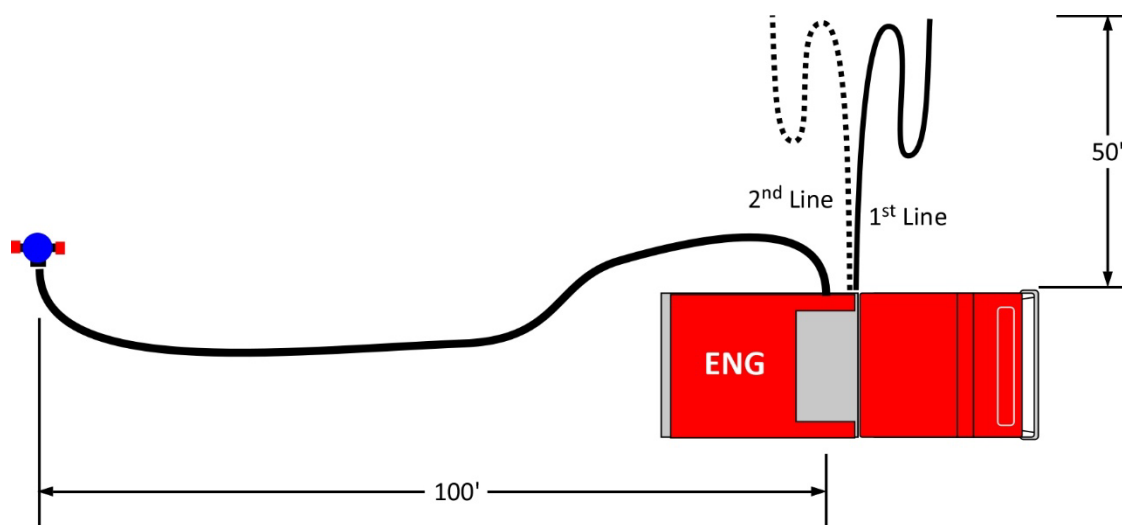
Use the configuration of building access and water supply encountered in this incident for hose deployment as illustrated in Figure 8 and determine the most efficient way to deploy the attack lines and establish water supply as a single company. Consider the following:

- Having the apparatus operator start the “on a hydrant” evolution either before or after supplying the attack line.
- Connecting the supply line to the engine before stretching to the hydrant (this allows the engineer to charge the supply line without having to return to the apparatus and make connections before going back to the hydrant to charge the line.

- If you need a second attack line (to be operated by the first arriving engine crew or a later arriving crew) who should stretch the line? A firefighter from the first arriving company, the company officer, or the engineer? This likely depends on your staffing.
- Change this up. Try this evolution using 1 ¾" attack lines, a 2 ½" attack line, a single inlet portable master stream (e.g. Task Force Tips Blitzfire), the Apparatus Mounted Master Stream, or a combination of these attack options. How does flow rate impact the sequence of activity performed by the crew.

This is dependent on multiple factors including staffing (most important), apparatus water tank capacity, hose size and loads, and the skill of the members involved.

Figure 8. Hose Deployment



Get out and stretch some hose! This application of the “on a hydrant” tactical play and stretching multiple lines is called “Engineer CrossFit”. This evolution is used when “on a hydrant”. Simple, but not always easy with five objectives: 1) The officer performs 360-degree reconnaissance (may stretch the attack line while doing this if staffing is extremely limited) and transmits an update report. 2) The firefighter stretches the attack line and places it in service for exterior application and/or for entry with two-in/one-out (if appropriate). 3) The apparatus operator establishes hydrant connection and continuous water supply (after supplying the attack line off tank supply). 4) The apparatus operator or another member of the crew stretches a second attack line and rescue air supply for the on-deck company (which is not yet on-scene). 5) The apparatus operator then completes additional tasks to support the operation as necessary.

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