



In-Station Training

TM 26-32 Residential Fire



Author

Chief Ed Hartin

Purpose

Quick and effective water on the fire is important. This is dependent on efficient and effective hose deployment on the exterior and beyond the door.

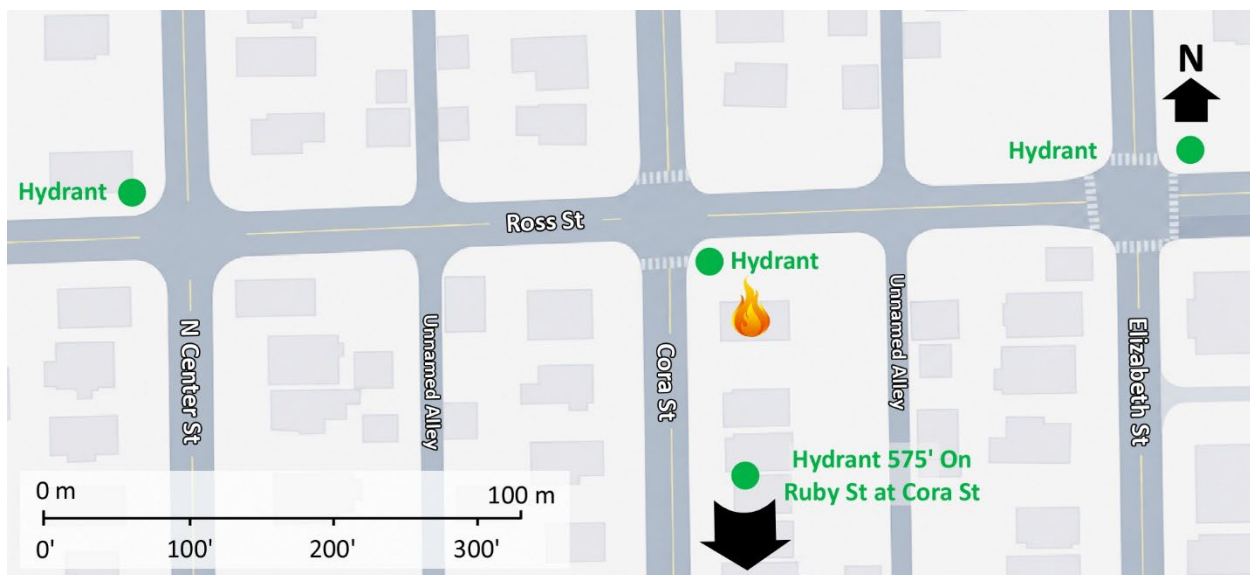
Learning Outcomes

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 834 Cora Street in Joliet, Illinois on Friday, July 24, 2026, at 19:27 (Timmy, 2026; Ferak, 2026; & Joliet Fire Department, 2026). Review the map and photos (Figures 1-7) to gain an understanding of the building and area involved.

Figure 1. Map of the Incident Area



Note: Adapted from Google. (2026a). [Map, 834 Cora Street, Joliet, IL]. Map data ©2026 Google.
<https://bit.ly/4qaLrKV>.

The closest hydrant is on the Alpha/Bravo Corner of the Main Fire Occupancy and there are other hydrants in the area as illustrated in Figure 1.

Figure 2. Aerial View



Note: Adapted from Google. (2026b). [Aerial view 834 Cora Street, Joliet, IL]. Imagery © Google, Imagery © Airbus Maxar Technologies, Map Data © 2026. <https://bit.ly/4wzvz6X>.

Figure 3. Alpha/Delta Corner



Note: Adapted from Google. (2025a). [Street view 834 Cora Street, Joliet, IL]. ©2025 Google. <https://bit.ly/3RmNfn6>.

Figure 4. Side Alpha



Note: Adapted from Google. (2025b). [Street view 834 Cora Street, Joliet, IL]. ©2025 Google.
<https://bit.ly/4qaSDXr>.

Figure 5. Side Bravo



Note: Adapted from Google. (2025c). [Street view 834 Cora Street, Joliet, IL]. ©2025 Google.
<https://bit.ly/4xgijEc>.

Figure 6. Charlie/Delta Corner



Note: Adapted from Google. (2025e). [Street view 834 Cora Street, Joliet, IL]. ©2025 Google.
<https://bit.ly/3TyQijt>.

Figure 7. Charlie/Delta Corner



Note: Adapted from Google. (2025f). [Street view 834 Cora Street, Joliet, IL]. ©2025 Google.
<https://bit.ly/4wvKcbh>.

The incident is in an older residential neighborhood, near the city's traditional urban core. The area consists primarily of closely spaced single-family homes on a regular street grid. Many homes in this part of the city were built in the early 20th century. Houses are predominantly owner-occupied, with a smaller percentage of rental housing. English is the predominant language, with some households speaking Spanish and other languages.

The temperature is currently 74° F (24° C) with wind from the southwest at 3 mph (5 kph) (Weather Underground, 2025). It is Friday, July 24th, at 19:27 and you are dispatched for a residential fire at 834 Cora Street, along with two other engines, a ladder company, medic unit, and command officer. Your engine has four-person staffing¹. **You are the officer of the first arriving engine company.**



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

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

Dispatch provides an update that the caller reports smoke coming from the back of the house

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 will arrive from the south on Cora Street. You anticipate the second engine will arrive shortly after you, followed by the ladder company, and command officer. All other first alarm resources will arrive after the command officer. Examine Figure 8 illustrating conditions as you arrive and then watch the first 00:20 of the [incident video](#) (Timmy, 2026). Click the link or scan the QR code to access the video.

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

Figure 8. Conditions on Arrival



Note: Adapted from Timmy. (2026). Cora street Joliet Housefire 2026. <https://bit.ly/4g7PQKU>. & Google (2024b). [Street view 834 Cora Street, Joliet, IL]. <https://bit.ly/45z7wc>. Image edited for clarity with ChatGPT 5.5, DALL-E]. Open Ai, (2026).

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?

Smoke is pushing from the eaves with moderate velocity. The sliding glass door on Side Bravo is smoke stained, and smoke is pushing from around this door, around the window, and from the gable vent on Side Charlie. No smoke is visible in the lower window on Side Bravo or from around the rear door.

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. Engine 2 arrives and reports that they are Level 1 on a hydrant at Ruby and Cora. State the tactical assignment you would give them exactly as you would transmit it.
8. Ladder 1 arrives and reports that they are Level 1 on Cora to the south. 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 building was occupied?

16. Was there searchable space?

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

The first arriving engine established their own water supply and stretched an attack line through Side Alpha. Watch the [incident video](#) (Timmy, 2026) from 00:20 to 01:35 showing arrival and initial incident operations. Click the link or scan the QR code to access the video.



18. What factors influenced time to water on the fire? How might the crew of the first arriving engine reduced time to water on the fire?

19. How did smoke conditions change after the line was stretched through the front door? What changes in fire behavior did the smoke conditions indicate? What factors were likely to have influenced this change?

The second arriving engine stretched a second attack line and the first arriving ladder company vertically ventilated, cutting approximately a 4' x 4' hole in the Bravo Side of the roof. Watch the [incident video](#) (Timmy, 2026) from 04:35 to 08:15 showing ongoing fire control and ventilation operations. Click the link or scan the QR code to access the video.



20. How did smoke conditions change after vertical ventilation was completed?
21. Given the conditions observed on arrival and during initial fire suppression operations, do you think vertical ventilation was the best tactical option for ventilation? Why or why not? What other ventilation tactics may have been effective in this situation?

Additional Learning

The hose load used, distance of the stretch, space, and obstructions all influence hose deployment methods. Watch the following hose deployment, door control, and interior operations videos with your crew:

- [Accordion Forward Hose Deployment](#) (On Fire Multimedia Productions, 2017a). This video provides a good look at this method of hose deployment. However, make sure you are looking where you are going when stretching towards the entry point with the nozzle and flake of hose to avoid tripping.
- [Accordion Reverse Hose Deployment](#) (On Fire Multimedia Productions, 2017a)
- [Coil Deployment](#) (Morgani, 2019).

Watch [Door Control and Interior Operations](#) (Fire Engineering, 2020a). This video does a good job illustrating how the door control firefighter maintains door control and supports the crew advancing the attack line. However, consider the following observations:

- LACoFD sets the nozzle pattern on a straight stream (and uses a straight stream consistently in the evolution). A narrow fog pattern or straight stream may be appropriate, depending on conditions.
- LACoFD applies water to the door to check surface temperature and did not use a thermal imager (TI). Using a TI is a more effective method for checking thermal conditions prior to and during entry.
- LACoFD applies a straight stream into the room as a “heat check”. Research (Zevotek, Stakes, & Willi, 2018) and practical experience have shown that application of water at 150 gpm using a fog stream is ineffective as a temperature check as you will almost always get water return, even when temperatures are extremely high. A straight stream would be even less effective in assessing temperature. Use of a TI to scan high, middle, and low in the room provides a more effective thermal assessment.

- LACoFD applies a straight stream in a wall, ceiling, wall application to cool in advance of the line. This method is the “preferred technique” identified in *National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1700 Guide for Structural Firefighting* (2026). Research conducted in Europe shows that long pulses of water fog are also effective (Van de Veire, 2016; Bonnier, 2017; & Van de Veire, 2018), particularly when advancing on a shielded fire.

Get out and stretch some hose! Practice hose deployment with you point of entry close to the engine and limited space as encountered by the companies operating at the incident examined in this 10-Minute Training.

References

- Ferak, J. (2026). Joliet Had Another House Fire This Weekend, This Is Where It Happened. Retrieved August 1, 2026, from <https://bit.ly/4yZiUMj>.
- Google (2024b). [Street view 834 Cora Street, Joliet, IL]. Retrieved August 1, 2026, from <https://bit.ly/45z7wc>.
- Google. (2025a). [Street view 834 Cora Street, Joliet, IL]. ©2025 Google. Retrieved August 1, 2026, from <https://bit.ly/3RmNfn6>.
- Google. (2025b). [Street view 834 Cora Street, Joliet, IL]. ©2025 Google. Retrieved August 1, 2026, from <https://bit.ly/4qaSDXr>.
- Google. (2025c). [Street view 834 Cora Street, Joliet, IL]. ©2025 Google. Retrieved August 1, 2026, from <https://bit.ly/4xgijEc>.
- Google. (2025e). [Street view 834 Cora Street, Joliet, IL]. ©2025 Google. Retrieved August 1, 2026, from <https://bit.ly/3TyQijt>.
- Google. (2025f). [Street view 834 Cora Street, Joliet, IL]. ©2025 Google. Retrieved August 1, 2026, from <https://bit.ly/4wvKcbh>.
- Google. (2026a). [Map, 834 Cora Street, Joliet, IL]. Map data ©2026 Google. Retrieved August 1, 2026, from <https://bit.ly/4qaLrKV>.
- Google. (2026b). [Aerial view 834 Cora Street, Joliet, IL]. Imagery © Google, Imagery © Airbus Maxar Technologies, Map Data © 2026. Retrieved August 1, 2026, from <https://bit.ly/4wzvz6X>.
- Joliet Fire Department: [Facebook post]. Retrieved August 1, 2026, from <https://bit.ly/4w6sB8J>.
- Morgani, C. (2019). *Coil deployment*. Retrieved August 1, 2026, from, from <https://bit.ly/35iJ5nv>.
- National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). (2026) *NFPA 1700 Guide for structural firefighting*. Quincy, MA: Author.

On Fire Multimedia Productions. (2017a). *Accordion forward hose deployment*. August 1, 2026, from, from <https://bit.ly/3v8Kigm>.

On-Fire Multimedia Productions. (2017b). *Accordion reverse hose deployment*. Retrieved August 1, 2026, from <https://bit.ly/3lr8YR7>.

OpenAI. (2026). *ChatGPT 5.2* [Large language model]. August 1, 2026, from <https://chat.openai.com/chat>.

Timmy. (2026). Cora street Joliet Housefire 2026. Retrieved August 1, 2026, from <https://bit.ly/4g7PQKU>.

Weather Underground (2025). *Joliet, IL Weather History* [historical weather July 24, 2026]. Retrieved August 1, 2026, from <https://bit.ly/4cgF4Qa>.

Build command competence through weekly practice.

Receive a link to each new 10-Minute Training tactical decision game by email.

[Click here](#) or scan the QR code to subscribe.

