



In-Station Training

TM 26-36 Residential Fire



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Purpose

Fires that start on the exterior and extend into a building are a common and challenging type of structure fire incident.

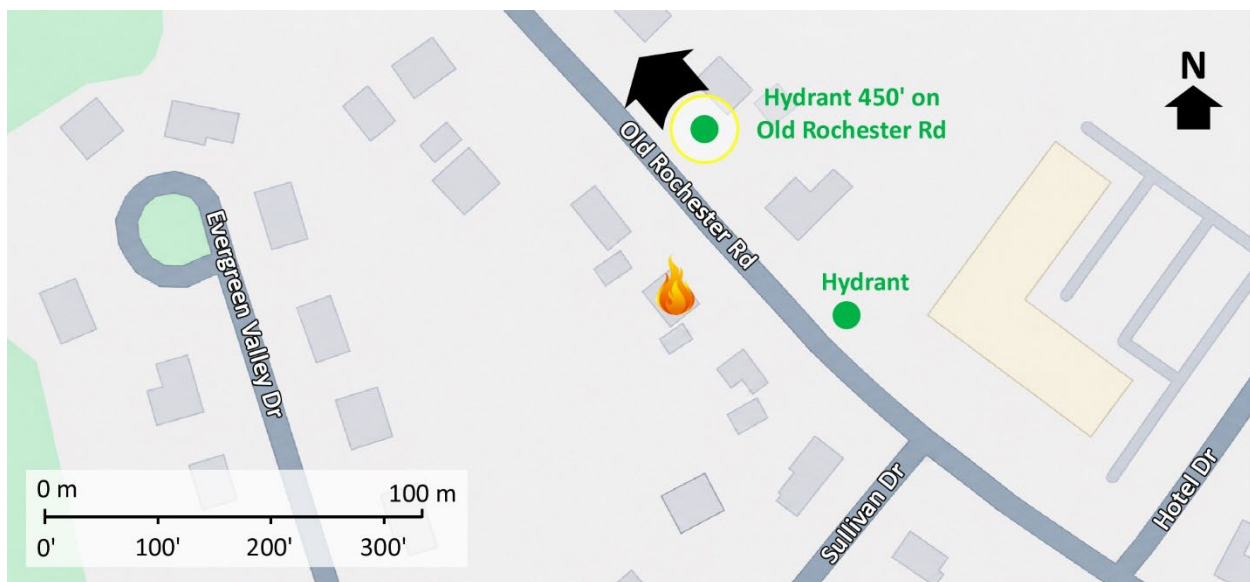
Learning Outcomes

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 14 Old Rochester Road in Dover, New Hampshire on August 16, 2026, at 01:35 (Scanner Alerts Media Group, 2026 & Broadcastify, 2026). 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, 14 Old Rochester Road, Dover, NH]. Map data ©2026 Google. <https://bit.ly/4gzlgJ9>.

The closest hydrant is across the street from 12 Old Rochester Road, and another hydrant is located to the northwest of the incident location on Old Rochester Road as illustrated in Figure 1.

Figure 2. Aerial View



Note: Adapted from Google. (2026b). [Aerial view 14 Old Rochester Road, Dover, NH]. Imagery © Google, Imagery © Airbus Maxar Technologies, Map Data © 2026. <https://bit.ly/4zFhJSl>.

Figure 3. Alpha/Bravo Corner



Note: Adapted from Google. (2023a). [Street view 14 Old Rochester Road, Dover, NH]. ©2025 Google. <https://bit.ly/3UKGsEN>.

Figure 4. Alpha/Delta Corner



Note: Adapted from Google. (2023b). [Street view 14 Old Rochester Road, Dover, NH]. ©2025 Google. <https://bit.ly/4i23fWw>.

Figure 5. Bravo/Charlie Corner



Note: Adapted from Google. (2026c). [3d aerial view 14 Old Rochester Road, Dover, NH]. Imagery © Google, Imagery © Airbus Maxar Technologies, Map Data © 2026. <https://bit.ly/4gJl1eP>.

The incident is in a low-density residential area on the north side of the city. The surrounding area includes detached single-family homes on larger suburban or semi-rural lots, along with nearby hotels and commercial occupancies. Many homes along Old Rochester Road were constructed in the mid-20th century. Homes in the immediate area are predominantly owner occupied. English is the predominant

language in the community, with a small proportion of households speaking languages other than English at home. (OpenAI, 2026). Fire and EMS call volume in this area is low in comparison with higher density neighborhoods in the community.

The temperature is currently 55° F (13° C) with wind from the northwest at 6 mph (10 kph) (Weather Underground, 2026). It is Sunday, August 16th, at 01:35 and you are dispatched along with two other engines, a ladder company, medic unit, and command officer for a possible residential fire in the area of 13 Old Rochester Road. The engine and ladder companies 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 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 the following update “13 Old Rochester Road, fully engulfed residence, believe no one is in the building, multiple calls with screams of get out, get out, one call from a resident, showing a hydrant in the area of number 12, you have PD enroute with you as well”

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 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.

¹ If your staffing and deployment are different, use your own resource assignment and staffing.

3. Based on the updates from dispatch, would you change the resource determination? What critical factors influenced your decision?

You arrive from the southwest on Old Rochester Road and identify that the fire is at 14 Old Rochester Road. You anticipate the ladder company will arrive shortly after you, followed by the second engine company and command officer. All other first alarm resources will arrive after the command officer. Watch the [incident video](#) from 01:00 to 01:30 (Cosme, 2026). Click the link or scan the QR code to access the video.

Figure 6. Conditions on Arrival



Note: Adapted from Scanner Alerts Media Group. (2026). Dover, NH structure fire |video from before fire department arrival through initial attack. <https://bit.ly/45ZYyVR>

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?

The occupants report that everyone is out of the house. The fire involves Side Bravo of the Main Fire Occupancy, the detached garage on the Bravo/Charlie corner and car in the driveway. There are two 100 lb. propane tanks on Side Charlie, Bravo/Charlie corner of the house.

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 on Old Rochester at Sullivan. 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 the hydrant to the Northwest on Old Rochester. 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 building was occupied?
17. Was there searchable space?
18. 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 stretched an attack line on Side Bravo for exterior fire control, and the second arriving engine stretched an attack line on Side Charlie to cool the exposed propane tanks (Broadcastify, 2026). Watch the [incident video](#) (Cosme, 2026) from 01:50 to the end. Click the link or scan the QR code to access the video.



19. Was your incident action plan like the actions taken by the first and second engine companies to arrive at this incident? What critical factors influenced your choice of attack positions and assignment of companies?
20. What factors influenced the effectiveness of the attack line working on Side Bravo? What alternative tactic or task level actions may have increased the effectiveness of water application?

The first engine arrived at 01:39 and Command reported that the “bulk fire is knocked down outside, we’re working on making entry to clear the building reports that everyone is out of the building” at 01:51 (12 minutes after arrival of the first engine) (Broadcastify, 2026).

21. Did you assign search prior to completely knocking down the exterior fire? If so, how did you address the fire extension to the interior of the house on Side Bravo? Did the occupant’s report that everyone was out of the building influence your sequence and timing of fire control and search?

Additional Learning

Two opportunities for additional learning in this 10-Minute Training; dealing with fires that start outside of a building and extend to the interior and simultaneous interior and exterior operations.

Outside-In Fires

Read [*Outside-In Fires: Effective Response*](#) (Cotter, 2016) and discuss your agency’s experience with outside-in fires and research based tactics for this common and challenging type of structure fire with the members of your crew.

Simultaneous Exterior Fire Control and Interior Operations

NFPA 1700 (2026) states: “Exterior fire control does not preclude simultaneous operations such as search, rescue, or interior suppression. As with all fire operations, communication, coordination, and control are essential.” (NFPA, 2026, 10.5.3.3.2). Discuss how simultaneous exterior fire control and interior operations could be used in circumstances like those encountered by the companies operating at the incident examined in this 10-Minute Training with the members of your crew.

References

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