



FIRST DUE QUESTIONS EXPECTATIONS & DECISION-MAKING

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TWO CHALLENGES...



Firefighters and Fire Officers need to develop and maintain:

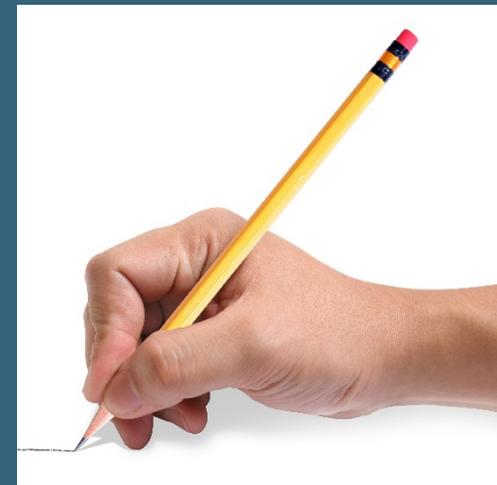
1. Skill in size-up and tactical decision-making
 - Recognition of key indicators
 - Clarity of expectations
2. The ability to write clearly and concisely

TACTICS AND WRITING



Written responses to tactical questions provides benefits beyond providing practice in these two separate skills.

- Transforms cognitive ability
- Makes thoughts visible
- Provides a practical method to improve action



THE QUESTIONS



What communication will you have with your crew while responding to this incident and what assignments will you make (if any) prior to arrival?

THE QUESTIONS



- What is your size-up report to Dispatch (write it exactly as you would transmit the report)?
- What orders if any would you give the members of your crew before exiting the cab (if any)?

THE QUESTIONS



- What action would you take at this point?
- What update report would you transmit after completing your 360° reconnaissance?

THE QUESTIONS



- What orders would you give your crew upon completing the 360° reconnaissance and transmitting an update report?
- State your assumptions regarding the effectiveness of your initial actions, and what would come next for your crew.

THE QUESTIONS



- What assignment would you give the next arriving company?
- Identify what B-SAHF (Building, Smoke, Air Track, Heat, and Flame) indicators informed your decisions.
- Identify the stage(s) of fire development, the burning regime (fuel or ventilation controlled).

THE QUESTIONS



- Describe the fire conditions that you anticipated inside the building and explain what lead you to these conclusions.
- How did your expectations, incident conditions, observations and your conclusions based on this information influence your choice of strategies and tactics?

THANKS!



Thanks for the use of these photos and video to
Photographer Chris Keene and the New Milford
(NJ) Volunteer Fire Department.



RESIDENTIAL FIRE



You are dispatched to an early morning structure fire in a residential neighborhood in your community and are responding on the first due engine.

What communication will you have with your crew while responding to this incident and what assignments will you make (if any) prior to arrival?







RESIDENTIAL FIRE

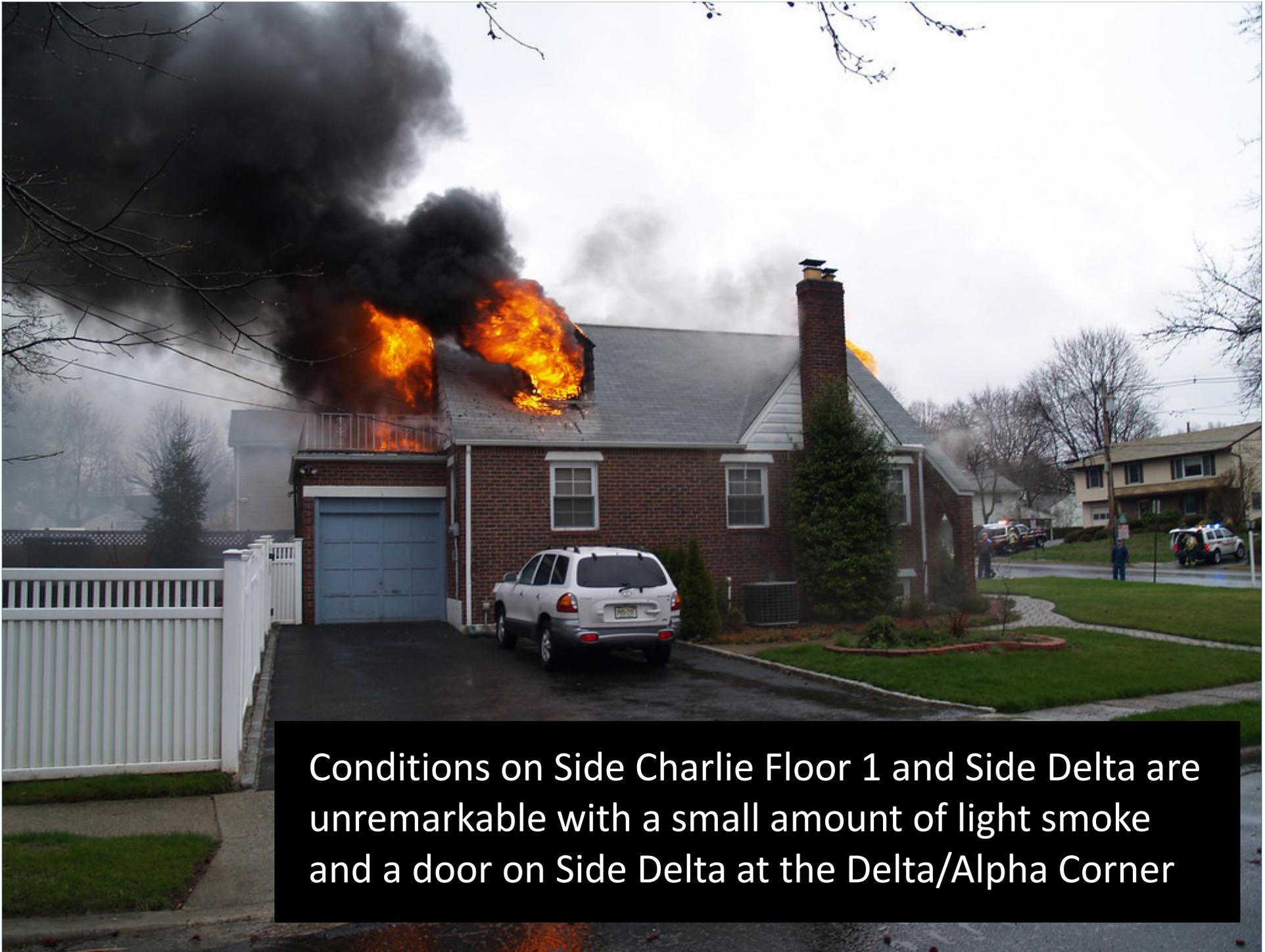


You arrive on-scene and transmit your size-up report and provide initial orders to your crew:

- *Size-Up (write it as you would say it)?*
- *Orders to your crew?*
- *What will you do now?*

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Conditions on Side Charlie Floor 1 and Side Delta are unremarkable with a small amount of light smoke and a door on Side Delta at the Delta/Alpha Corner

RESIDENTIAL FIRE



You have completed your 360, now what?

- *Update (write it as you would say it)?*
- *Orders to your crew?*
- *Assignment for the next arriving company?*

RESIDENTIAL FIRE



What informed your decisions?

- *B-SAHF Indicators*
- *Stages of Fire Development*
- *Burning Regime (Fuel/Vent Limited)*
- *Anticipated Fire Conditions (Floors 1 & 2)*
- *How did your observations influence your decisions in this incident?*

FIRST DUE QUESTIONS



To write well is to think clearly. That's why it's so hard.
David McCullough



COMMERCIAL FIRE



You are dispatched to an mid day structure fire in a commercial area in your community and are responding on the first due engine.

What communication will you have with your crew while responding to this incident and what assignments will you make (if any) prior to arrival?



COMMERCIAL FIRE



You arrive on-scene and transmit your size-up report and provide initial orders to your crew:

- *Size-Up (write it as you would say it)?*
- *Orders to your crew?*
- *What will you do now?*

COMMERCIAL FIRE



Will you be able to conduct a 360? What will you do if you cannot (i.e. due to building size or obstructions)?

- *Update (write it as you would say it)?*
- *Orders to your crew?*
- *Assignment for the next arriving company?*

COMMERCIAL FIRE



What informed your decisions?

- *B-SAHF Indicators*
- *Stages of Fire Development*
- *Burning Regime (Fuel/Vent Limited)*
- *Anticipated Fire Conditions*
- *How did your observations influence your decisions in this incident?*

VIOLATION OF EXPECTATIONS



How do your variation from expectations influence ongoing decision-making?

- *Conditions you expected to find inside?*
- *Effect of your tactics?*
- *Observed conditions on the exterior and reports from crews on the interior*

NOW WHAT?



What will you do with what you have learned?

- *On a personal level?*
- *Your next shift or training session?*
- *Over the next month?*

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