



## BugleReady Fire Department

# Residential Garden Apartment Fire

INCIDENT TYPE

**Fire**

TRAINING LEVEL

**Company drill**

DATE GENERATED

**June 18, 2026**

For training, tabletop discussion, and instructor preparation.

## Scenario Overview

### Summary

The incident is located in a suburban residential area consisting of multiple two-story garden apartment buildings. The fire is actively burning on the second floor of one building, with visible smoke from several windows. Access to the building is limited due to narrow driveways and landscaping. Occupants are reported trapped on the upper floors, requiring immediate search and rescue. Lightweight construction and close proximity to adjacent units increase the risk of rapid fire spread and structural compromise.

### Intended use

Prepared for department training, tabletop discussion, and instructor-led drill facilitation.

### Training level

Company drill

### Estimated duration

45-60 minutes

## Dispatch / Initial Report

### Dispatch information

Multiple reports of smoke and fire visible from a garden apartment complex. Possible occupants trapped.

### Initial conditions

Fire reported on the second floor of a two-story garden apartment building with smoke showing from multiple windows. Occupants reported trapped on upper floors.

### Occupancy/building description

The incident is located in a suburban residential area consisting of multiple two-story garden apartment buildings. The fire is actively burning on the second floor of one building, with visible smoke from several windows. Access to the building is limited due to narrow driveways and landscaping. Occupants are reported trapped on the upper floors, requiring immediate search and rescue. Lightweight construction and close proximity to adjacent units increase the risk of rapid fire spread and structural compromise.

## Scene Visual



Selected scene image for drill discussion

## Animation / Video Reference

### Selected animation

Available in IncidentStudio Project Resources. Generated June 16, 2026.

## Units / Resources

- Engine 1
- Engine 2
- Ladder 1
- Rescue 1
- Battalion Chief 1

## Hazards and Safety Considerations

### Hazards

- Potential for rapid fire spread due to lightweight construction
- Risk of structural collapse
- Limited access and egress points
- Presence of civilians inside the building
- Electrical hazards and potential gas leaks

## Safety considerations

- Monitor structural integrity continuously due to risk of collapse from lightweight construction.
- Ensure rapid intervention team is established and ready early in the incident.
- Maintain accountability and crew tracking given limited access and multiple units.
- Be vigilant for electrical hazards and potential gas leaks within the building.
- Prioritize firefighter safety when conducting search and rescue in smoke-filled, unstable environments.

## Tactical Objectives

1. Establish incident command and conduct a thorough size-up of the garden apartment fire
2. Coordinate fire attack and search and rescue operations simultaneously
3. Manage ventilation to control smoke and heat while protecting exposures in adjacent units
4. Implement firefighter safety protocols including rapid intervention team (RIT) deployment early in the incident
5. Maintain clear and effective communication between crews and command during evolving fire conditions

## Expected Actions / Decision Points

1. Decide how crews should establish incident command and conduct a thorough size-up of the garden apartment fire and what conditions would change that plan.
2. Decide how crews should coordinate fire attack and search and rescue operations simultaneously and what conditions would change that plan.
3. Decide how crews should manage ventilation to control smoke and heat while protecting exposures in adjacent units and what conditions would change that plan.
4. Decide how crews should implement firefighter safety protocols including rapid intervention team (RIT) deployment early in the incident and what conditions would change that plan.
5. Decide how crews should maintain clear and effective communication between crews and command during evolving fire conditions and what conditions would change that plan.

## Facilitator Guide

### Instructor-facing guidance

This scenario is designed to develop officer-level skills in managing a complex residential garden apartment fire. Begin with a briefing on the occupancy type, known hazards, and initial conditions. Facilitate discussion on establishing command, conducting size-up, and prioritizing search and rescue alongside fire suppression. Emphasize the importance of ventilation management and exposure protection in multi-unit structures. Guide participants to plan for firefighter safety measures, including early RIT deployment. Use evolving scenario injects to challenge communication and

tactical decision-making. Encourage debriefing focused on coordination, safety, and adaptability.

### Setup notes

Review local policy, identify the drill facilitator, and confirm any resources or props before beginning.

### How to run the drill

Read the student briefing, pause for size-up discussion, work through decision points, and close with the after-action prompts.

## Student Briefing

### Briefing

Multiple reports of smoke and fire visible from a garden apartment complex. Possible occupants trapped. Fire reported on the second floor of a two-story garden apartment building with smoke showing from multiple windows. Occupants reported trapped on upper floors.

## Discussion Questions

1. What factors should be considered during the initial size-up of this garden apartment fire?
2. How can command effectively coordinate search and rescue with fire attack operations?
3. What ventilation strategies are appropriate to control smoke and protect exposures in this occupancy?
4. How should the rapid intervention team be organized and deployed in this scenario?
5. What communication challenges might arise and how can they be mitigated during the incident?

## Checklist / Evaluation Items

Observed	Item	Notes
<input type="checkbox"/>	Incident command established within first 5 minutes	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Size-up includes assessment of fire location, extension, and occupant status	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>

## Checklist / Evaluation Items (continued)

Observed	Item	Notes
<input type="checkbox"/>	RIT assigned and staged early in the incident	_____ _____ _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Search and rescue operations coordinated with fire attack	_____ _____ _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ventilation tactics implemented to control smoke and protect exposures	_____ _____ _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Communication maintained between all units and command	_____ _____ _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Safety protocols followed, including hazard identification and crew accountability	_____ _____ _____

## After-Action Review Prompts

1. Evaluate the effectiveness of incident command establishment and size-up procedures.
2. Discuss the coordination between fire attack and search and rescue teams.
3. Review ventilation tactics used and their impact on fire behavior and occupant safety.
4. Assess firefighter safety measures, including RIT deployment and hazard recognition.
5. Reflect on communication flow and decision-making throughout the evolving incident.

## Appendix / Disclaimer

### **Training disclaimer**

IncidentStudio is a training and scenario-development tool. Generated materials are for discussion, planning, tabletop training, and instructional preparation. They are not operational orders, incident command directives, or a substitute for department policy, certified instruction, or local AHJ requirements.