

Fire and Emergency Services Company Officer

Lesson 21 — Postincident Activities

Assignment Sheet 21-1

Apply the Evaluation Process to the Fire Cause and Determination Task

Name _____ Date _____

References

Fire and Emergency Services Company Officer, 4th Edition, p. 505
NPFA 1021, 4.5.1

Introduction

Company officers are often called upon to assist in the determination of the fire's origin and cause. Many times, the company officer is in the unique position of having witnessed the fire at an early stage and can point out where it appeared to begin. Other times, the company officer is in a position to preserve the scene in a condition that will allow for a thorough investigation at a later time.

Directions

Review the scenario and the site plan described below. Referring to scenario and site plan, complete the Company Officer Field Report Form that is provided. All fields must be completed. On the site plan, indicate the area that you would secure.

Activity

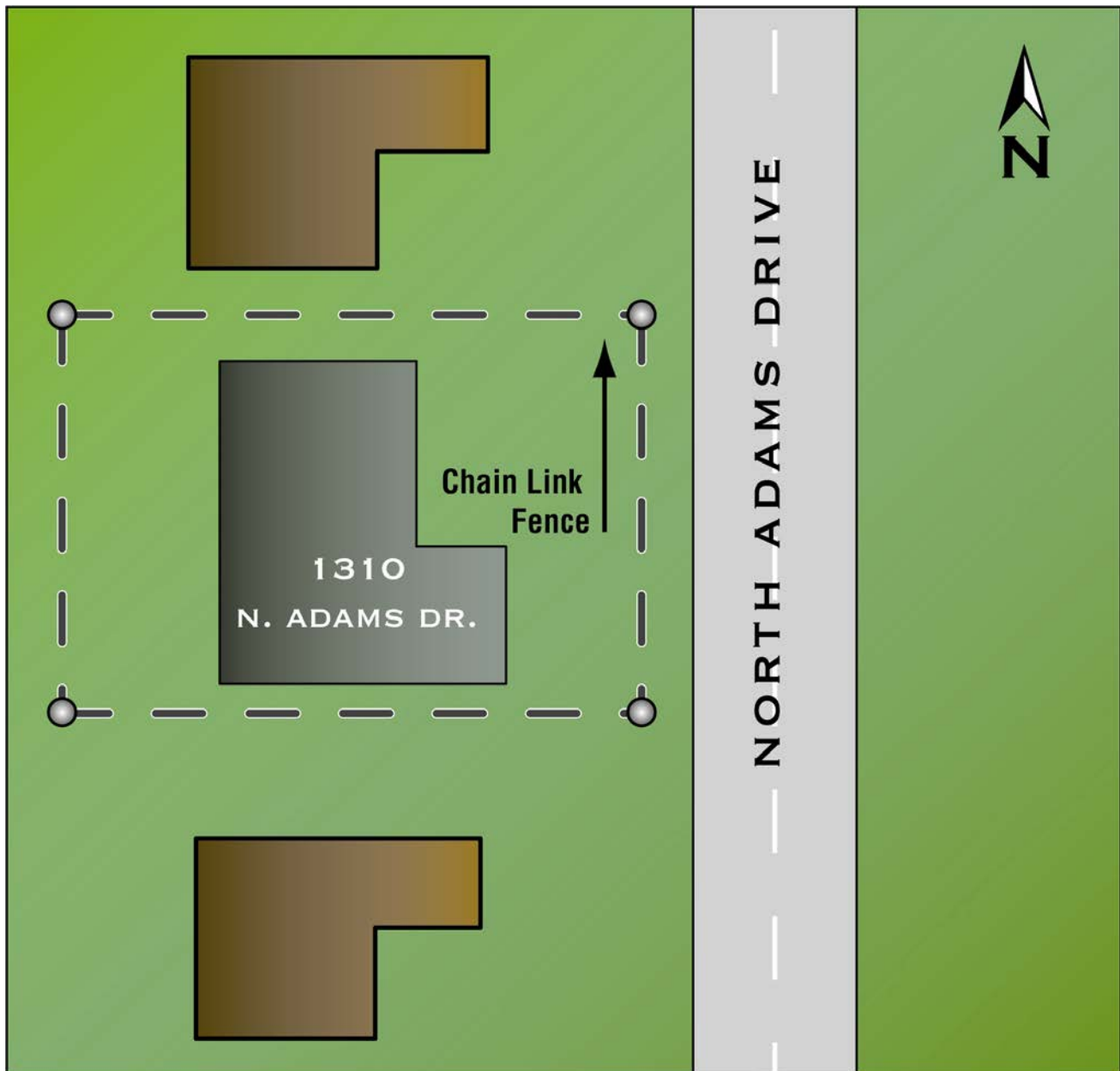
You are the company officer on E-5. On Saturday, October 13, you receive an alarm for a fire at 1310 N. Adams Drive. This is a quiet part of a neighborhood that is primarily single-family residences. The alarm is received at 1315. The house is approximately 4 blocks from the station.

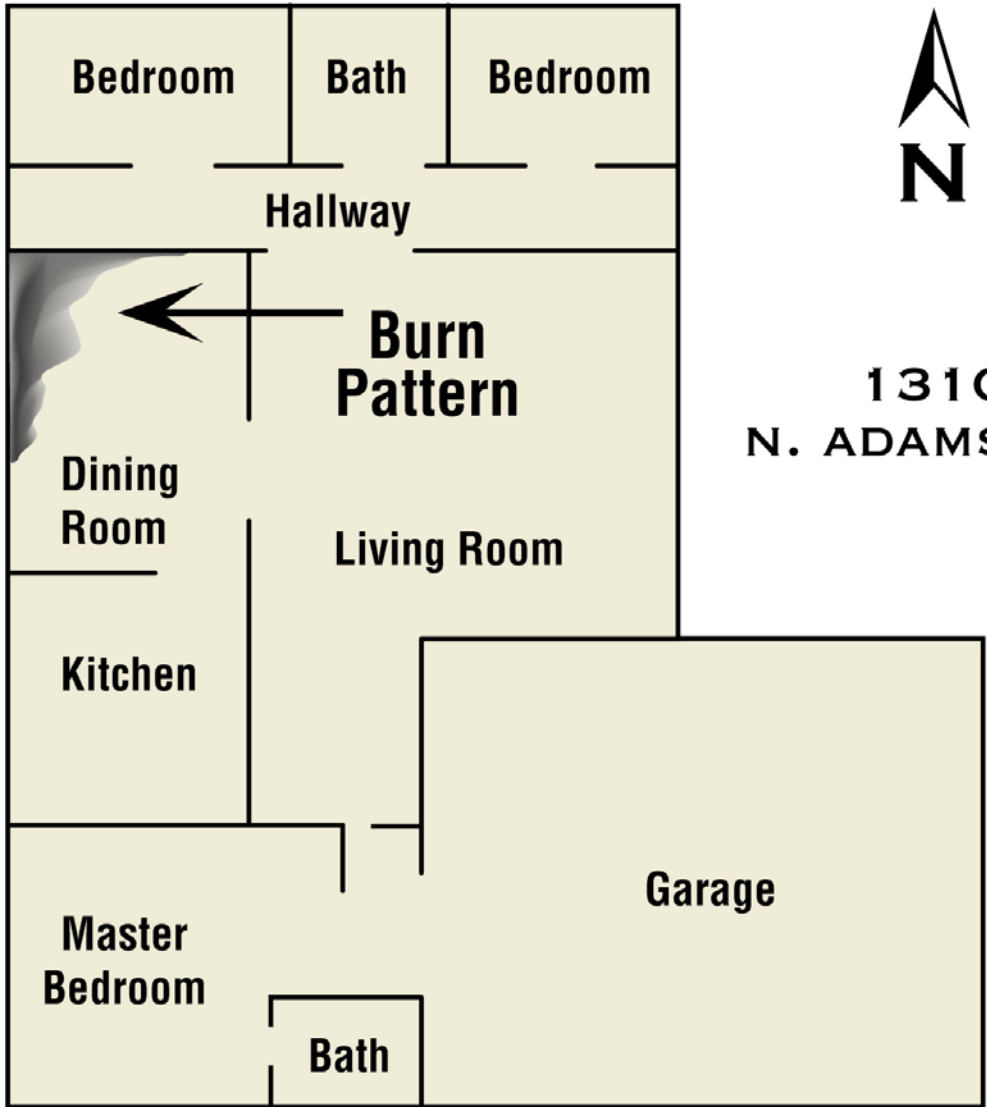
As you leave the station, you observe heavy black smoke from the area of the house. E-5 is the first company on scene. Other responding companies include E-3 and L-1. You observe several people standing in front yards along Adams Drive. The structure is single story with brick siding. Fire is coming from a window at the rear of the house. Fire can be seen through the front windows. It is obvious the fire is burning vigorously. There are no cars in the driveway.

Your crew makes an interior fire attack through the front door, which is unlocked. The smoke is almost on the floor. The majority of the fire is in a corner in the dining room. You notice that the fire is hard to knock down and keeps flaming back up. Finally you get the fire knocked down. Other crews ventilate the structure. The company officer from L-1 reports that the utilities had been disconnected by her crew.

As you walk through the structure you observe that there are no pictures on the walls or furniture in any of the rooms as would be expected. You notice the burn pattern on the floor is consistent with a pooled flammable liquid. In the backyard you find an empty plastic 1-gallon gasoline can. Upon inspection you find what appears to be a little bit of gasoline in the bottom.

You take time to visit with Mrs. Gertrude Jones, the neighbor and reporting party, about the situation. She states that the woman, Mrs. Wilma Smith, who lives in the house was recently put in a nursing home by her daughter. No one has been living in the house for several weeks. She states that she did see the grandson's car in the alley earlier in the morning. She states that she heard a "pop" and when she went into her backyard she saw thick black smoke coming from a back window. She ran back into her home and immediately called 9-1-1.





X Gas Can



ANYTOWN FIRE DEPARTMENT

COMPANY OFFICER FIRE INVESTIGATION REPORT

DATE:		
ALARM TIME:		
ADDRESS:		
TYPE OF STRUCTURE:		
FIRE CONDITIONS ON ARRIVAL:		
OWNER/OCCUPANT:		
WAS STRUCTURE OCCUPIED? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	WERE OCCUPANTS PRESENT? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	WERE UTILITIES CONNECTED? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
POINT OF FIRE ORIGIN:		
WAS A HEAT SOURCE IN THE AREA OF IGNITION? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO		
POSSIBLE PRELIMINARY CAUSE:		
POSSIBLE INCENDIARY FIRE? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO (If YES Why?)		
WAS INITIAL FIRE OBSERVED? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO		
WHAT INFORMATION WAS PROVIDED BY WITNESSES?		
WITNESS NAME and ADDRESS:		
ADDITIONAL INVESTIGATION REQUIRED? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO		
SIGNATURE OF OFFICER MAKING REPORT:		

FORWARD ALL COMPLETED INVESTIGATION REPORTS TO THE FIRE MARSHAL

FORM 101-IR