

# Fire Tactics



Sizing –up Shift Report  
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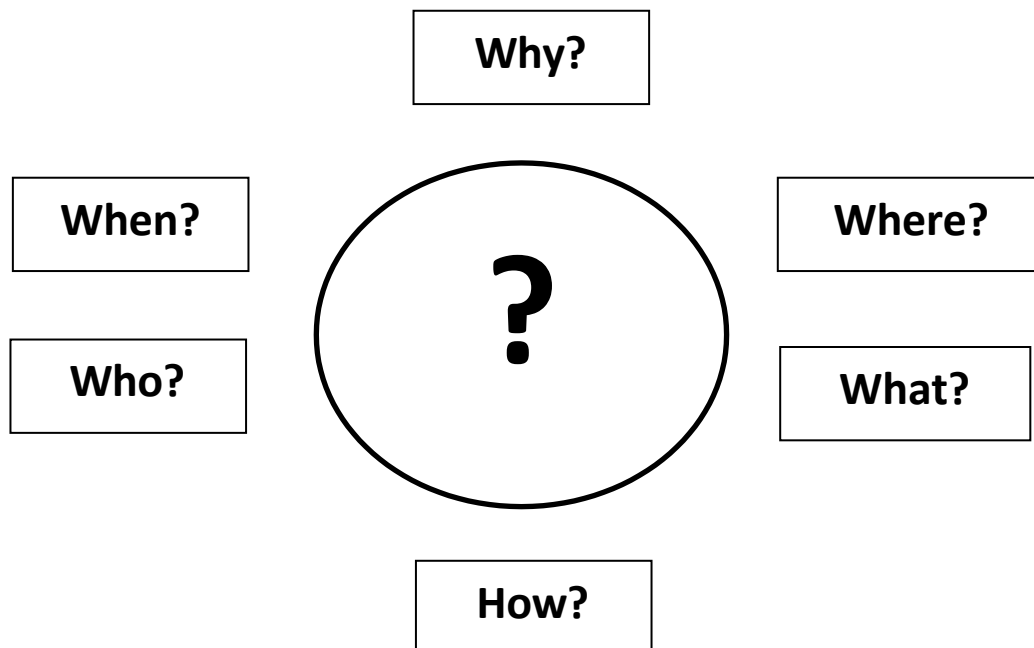
According to some professionals, such as police officers and firefighters the word “tactics” means to develop a well organized plan in order to achieve a specific goal. This is a very important definition for firefighters because there must be a well-designed plan of attack for the emergency even before arriving at the scene. The commander in charge of the situation must be aware of all the information available in order for him/her to decide who, how, and when the crew will save lives, control, stop the fire, and bring back every single crew member attending to the emergency. For a commander, a tactics process starts even before the emergency takes place.

## Question

What is essential for a firefighter to know when beginning their shift?

## Procedure

1. You and your partner will read the shift report.



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## Shift Report

Firefighter (out): Fire Chief Markes      Firefighter (in): Fire Chief Pows

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Station: North Central #2

Notes:

During the past 12 hours, we had a power outage lasting about five hours due to the local storms. Unfortunately, we did not have the opportunity to test the newest equipment received from the Fire Safety Science Company. However, the current equipment is up to date and ready to be used. In addition, the ladder truck is having an issue, which takes an extra 10 seconds to fold out and contract. The other two vehicles are perfectly fine to be used. The newest firefighter, Timmy Thomas, is doing a great job considering he started only five days ago. He has been training with firefighter Paul Polar on ladder management. Firefighter Mark Muller had to be absent from the station for a couple of hours because his son was sick. Additionally, firefighter Sam Sanchez is back from the Emergency Management International conference in Italy. The weather should be around 75 degrees Fahrenheit with high winds coming from the north towards the southwest direction. Chicago Avenue will be closed due to a construction repair for two weeks, remind yourself to take alternative roads. There is an email coming from the city's operations department informing us about the completion of the expansion of the north and south walking trails, they are big enough to fit an emergency vehicle through them. The fire science exposition at the science museum scheduled for 11:00 am has been moved to 4:00 pm at the same location. Last, the Peter James elementary school field trip for today at noon has been canceled and it will be rescheduled at a later time. Have a great day and be safe.

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What is important from the shift report? And why?

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How well organized is the report?

Why would the way information is organized on a shift report be important?

What vital information do you think is missing from the shift report?  
And why is this vital?

Develop a standardized template or form so the firefighters are able to get information from the shift report in a more efficient way.

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## Statement

You are on the city planning board. You have been asked to decide where to place the fire hydrants. Where will you place the fire hydrants? Explain your reasoning.

## Materials

-  City map
-  Dry erase markers
-  Ruler
-  Red dot stickers
-  String
-  Scissors

## Procedure

1. What observations can you make about the city map?

2. What other information do you think would be helpful on the city map?

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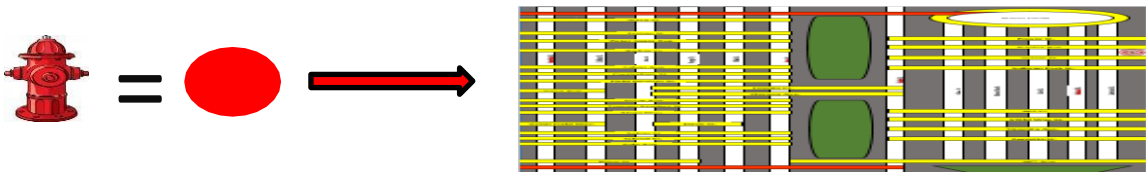


3. Did you notice anything special about the hydrants on your city map?

4. Analyze your city map once again. You and your partner will decide the **strategic locations** for 20 hydrants.

5. What aspects or criteria will you consider in order for you and your partner to decide the placement of the 20 hydrants available? Explain your strategy.

6. Place a red sticker dot on the city map to illustrate a hydrant location.



If hydrants are important for the community, why don't we have one or more on every street?

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For the next part of the sizing-up, you and your partner will decide the best route for the fire trucks to travel to the emergency based on the time it will take you to get there.

1. Locate the fire station on the city map.
2. There will be an emergency call coming from the 911 dispatcher indicating the location of the emergency. **The location is** \_\_\_\_\_
3. You must trace the route from the station to the emergency by placing the string over the map. You cannot drive over any infrastructure (grey color rectangles) or any city parks (green color shapes).
4. After the route is traced, measure the string in centimeters and record this on the table below. The unit conversion will be as follow: **1 cm = ¼ mile** in real life.
5. Use the following table to determine the time it will take the fire trucks to arrive at the emergency.
6. Make sure you and your partner pay attention to the radio because it will keep you up-to-date with important information.

Call number 1					
String (centimeters)	Multiply by .25 (miles)	Divide by speed (miles per hour)	Multiply by 60 (to get minutes)	Time (in minutes)	Total time (in minutes)

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Call number 2					
String (centimeters)	Multiply by .25 (miles)	Divide by speed (miles per hour)	Multiply by 60 (to get minutes)	Time (in minutes)	Total time (in minutes)

Call number 3					
String (centimeters)	Multiply by .25 (miles)	Divide by speed (miles per hour)	Multiply by 60 (to get minutes)	Time (in minutes)	Total time (in minutes)

Call number 4					
String (centimeters)	Multiply by .25 (miles)	Divide by speed (miles per hour)	Multiply by 60 (to get minutes)	Time (in minutes)	Total time (in minutes)



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Call number 5					
String (centimeters)	Multiply by .25 (miles)	Divide by speed (miles per hour)	Multiply by 60 (to get minutes)	Time (in minutes)	Total time (in minutes)

Call number 6					
String (centimeters)	Multiply by .25 (miles)	Divide by speed (miles per hour)	Multiply by 60 (to get minutes)	Time (in minutes)	Total time (in minutes)

Call number 7					
String (centimeters)	Multiply by .25 (miles)	Divide by speed (miles per hour)	Multiply by 60 (to get minutes)	Time (in minutes)	Total time (in minutes)

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Call number 8					
String (centimeters)	Multiply by .25 (miles)	Divide by speed (miles per hour)	Multiply by 60 (to get minutes)	Time (in minutes)	Total time (in minutes)

Call number 9					
String (centimeters)	Multiply by .25 (miles)	Divide by speed (miles per hour)	Multiply by 60 (to get minutes)	Time (in minutes)	Total time (in minutes)

Call number 10					
String (centimeters)	Multiply by .25 (miles)	Divide by speed (miles per hour)	Multiply by 60 (to get minutes)	Time (in minutes)	Total time (in minutes)

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A firefighter's goal is to save lives. Why is it important for them to know the emergency location, the type of building, or neighborhood characteristics?

If the siren of an emergency vehicle is going to open a pathway for it to travel (car moving to the side of the road and green lights at the stoplights). How does traffic decide the speed limit of the emergency vehicle?

What idea do you have to help emergency vehicles to avoid traffic issues in order for them to travel faster to the emergency?