APARTMENT STRUCTURE FIRE:
TWO STORY – 1ST FLOOR EXTENDED TO 2ND FLOOR
DYNAMIC SCENARIO #9
You are assigned as the Officer on Engine 1. Three engines, a ladder truck and a Battalion Chief are dispatched. If you upgrade to a working fire assignment, you will receive an additional engine company and ladder truck. If you request a second alarm, you will receive the working fire assignment and an additional two engines and a second Battalion Chief for a total of six engines, two ladder trucks and two Battalion Chiefs. You will also receive a code 2 EMT private ambulance. Subsequent alarms will bring you an additional three engines and one ladder truck. For the purposes of this simulation, you will only be allowed to place your 1st alarm assignment and, if you upgrade to a working structure assignment or call for a 2nd alarm, you may assign an additional engine and truck. The Battalion Chief responding will be delayed. You will be first on scene and you may not pass command.

Structure fire assignment for:
Engine 1, Engine 2, Engine 3, Truck 1, and Battalion 1.
247 Marietta Ave. x 3rd St. District 2219.
Engine 1, Engine 2, Engine 3, Truck 1, and Battalion 1.
Structure Response: 247 Marietta Ave. 1612 hours

Fire dispatch and incoming units, Engine 1, on scene with 3, at 247 Marietta Avenue. I have a two-story garden style apartment with one unit on the first floor well involved in fire. The fire is extending to the second floor. Engine 1 is laying a supply line from Marietta and 3rd. My firefighter is pulling an inch and three-quarter and attacking the fire on the first floor from the outside. My driver will assume the first half of the two-out. I will be Marietta IC, the command post is at Engine 1, on the tactical Alpha side. Dispatch a second alarm assignment, staging will be one block south on Marietta. This will be an offensive fire attack. I will conduct a 360 and report any significant findings.

Fire dispatch copies, Engine 1 on scene of a two story apartment with heavy fire showing from the first floor that is extending to the second floor. Engine 1 is establishing Marietta IC, the command post will be at Engine 1. Engine 1 is laying in and the firefighter is attacking the fire from the outside. Stand by for your second alarm units.

All incoming units, Marietta IC, be advised our incident objectives are to conduct a primary search in all units and limit the fire spread to the involved units on the 1st and 2nd floors, Alpha-Bravo corner.

Engine 2 on scene, with 3.

Engine 2, Marietta IC.

Go for Engine 2.

Engine 2, Marietta IC, you are Division 2. Pull a line from Engine 1 and go to the second floor. Your objectives are to conduct a primary search and extinguish the fire. Assign your driver as the second half of two out and have them secure the utilities.

Engine 2, I copy I will be Division 2 and my driver will be two out.
Truck 1 on scene, with 3.

Truck 1, Marietta IC, there is a spot for you in front. You are the Roof Division. Go to the roof and perform vertical ventilation. Coordinate location and timing of your cut with Division 2.

Truck 1 copies, Roof Division.

Ambulance 1 on scene.

Ambulance 1, Marietta IC, stage in a safe location with access to the scene.

Ambulance 1 copies.

Engine 3 on scene, with three.

Engine 3, Marietta IC, take charge of my firefighter, you are Division 1. Your objectives are to conduct a primary search and extinguish the fire on the first floor.

Marietta IC from Fire dispatch, your second alarm units are Engine 4, Engine 5, Engine 6, and Truck 2.

Marietta IC copies, Engines 4, 5, 6, and Truck 2. Dispatch PD for crowd and traffic control.

Fire dispatch copies.

Engine 3 copies Division 1, take control of your firefighter, primary search and knockdown.

Truck 2 on scene, with 3.

Truck 2, Marietta IC.

Go for Truck 2.

Truck 2, Marietta IC, you are rapid intervention crew. Conduct a 360, soften the structure and formulate a RIC plan.

Truck 2, I copy, we are Rapid Intervention Crew.

Engine 2 driver, Marietta IC.

Engine 2 driver go.

Engine 2 driver, Marietta IC, I am reassigning you to Division 2.

Engine 2 driver copies, report to Division 2.

Division 2, Marietta IC.
This is Division 2, go ahead.

Division 2, Marietta IC, I just assigned you the driver from Engine 2. This makes your crew strength three for accountability. What is the status of your primary search and do you have fire knockdown?

IC from Division 2, we are conducting the search and have a moderate amount of fire on 2. Copy I’m getting my driver in Division 2.

Division 2 to Roof Division.

This is the Roof Division, go ahead.

Division 2 to Roof Division, we can hear you on the roof. It sounds like you are one apartment to the south.

Roof Division copies. We’ll relocate and begin our cut.

Engine 4 on scene with 3.

Engine 4, Marietta IC, standby.

Division 1, Marietta IC.

Marietta IC, Division 1.

Engine 1, I need more line.

Division 1, Marietta IC, what is the status of your primary search and do you have fire knockdown?

IC, Division 1, we are unable to complete a primary search due to heavy fire on the first floor.

Marietta IC copies, heavy fire on the first floor. Break. Fire dispatch, Marietta IC, dispatch a third alarm and have them report to staging.

Fire dispatch copies, Marietta IC requesting a 3rd alarm.

Engine 4, Marietta IC.

Go for Engine 4.

Engine 4, Marietta IC, establish a secondary water supply, pull a 2 and a half and report to Division 1.

Engine 4 copies, establish a water supply and pull a line to Division 1.
Division 1, Marietta IC, I’ve just assigned you Engine 4. They’re bringing you a 2 1/2" line. For accountability this brings your crew strength to 7.

Battalion 1 on scene.

Battalion 1, Marietta IC, come to the command post for a face-to-face transfer.

Transfer of Command:

Chief,

Upon arrival, Engine 1 found one unit on the first floor well involved in fire, with extension to the second floor. My firefighter attacked the fire on the first floor from the outside. Currently you have Engine 3 as Division 1, on the first floor, with my firefighter and Engine 4, for accountability of 7. They report that they are unable to complete a primary search due to heavy fire. Engine 2 is Division 2 with a crew strength of 3. They are reporting a moderate amount of fire and are working on their primary search. The Roof Division is Truck 1. They are performing vertical ventilation in coordination with Division 2. Truck 2 is RIC. Ambulance 1 is standing by. Engine 5 and 6 should be arriving in staging shortly and I’ve requested a 3rd alarm but do not know the units in the 3rd yet. I recommend that we assign additional engine companies to Divisions 1 and 2 in order to expedite the primary search and get knock down in both divisions. We also need to get into the adjacent units, on both floors, for primary search and extension. We need to assess the attic after vertical ventilation. If there is fire in the attic space we should assign another truck to the Roof Division. I’m ready to answer any questions you may have.

Decision Point(s):

An incident commander will be faced with many decision points at every incident. There are several decision points in this scenario that we should discuss.

The first decision point occurs when choosing the initial attack on the fire. The incident commander elected to have his firefighter hit the fire from the outside to take the BTU’s out of it. This decision was made since it would not be possible for initial attack crews to enter the 1st floor unit due to the large amount of fire present. Since entry was not possible on the floor initially, and a line was already in operation there, the second due engine was sent to the second floor and assigned to establish Division 2. By the time the third due engine arrived on scene, the fire on the first floor was knocked down sufficiently to allow entry in to the apartment on the 1st floor.

The second decision point came when assigning the first due truck to the roof. Initially it appeared that the fire was extending to the second floor. Considering the fact that fire doubles in size every minute, and the time delay in placing lines in to service because the first due engine stopped to lay in from the hydrant, charging the hydrant line and pulling the initially attack line, it is reasonable to expect that it would be 3-4 minutes until water was applied to the fire. This means the fire would be, at least, three to four times larger. The growing fire, unchecked by attack lines for 3-4 minutes, will certainly extend to the second floor, which would have required vertical ventilation.
Lastly, the Incident Commander elected to assign the second due ladder truck as the rapid intervention crew. While in some agencies this may be unusual, there was more engine work than truck work needed on this incident. Additionally, the RIC equipment is frequently carried on the ladder trucks and the personnel are usually more familiar with it.

**Resources:**

Fire Dispatch  
Battalion 1  
Engine 1  
Engine 2  
Engine 3  
Truck 1  
Engine 4  
Truck 2  
Ambulance 1  
Injects