

AF FIRE ACADEMY SUPPRESSION 1 PRACTICE TEST (SAMPLE)

STUDY GUIDE



SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS

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Introduction

Preparing for a certification exam can feel overwhelming, but with the right tools, it becomes an opportunity to build confidence, sharpen your skills, and move one step closer to your goals. At Examzify, we believe that effective exam preparation isn't just about memorization, it's about understanding the material, identifying knowledge gaps, and building the test-taking strategies that lead to success.

This guide was designed to help you do exactly that.

Whether you're preparing for a licensing exam, professional certification, or entry-level qualification, this book offers structured practice to reinforce key concepts. You'll find a wide range of multiple-choice questions, each followed by clear explanations to help you understand not just the right answer, but why it's correct.

The content in this guide is based on real-world exam objectives and aligned with the types of questions and topics commonly found on official tests. It's ideal for learners who want to:

- Practice answering questions under realistic conditions,
- Improve accuracy and speed,
- Review explanations to strengthen weak areas, and
- Approach the exam with greater confidence.

We recommend using this book not as a stand-alone study tool, but alongside other resources like flashcards, textbooks, or hands-on training. For best results, we recommend working through each question, reflecting on the explanation provided, and revisiting the topics that challenge you most.

Remember: successful test preparation isn't about getting every question right the first time, it's about learning from your mistakes and improving over time. Stay focused, trust the process, and know that every page you turn brings you closer to success.

Let's begin.

How to Use This Guide

This guide is designed to help you study more effectively and approach your exam with confidence. Whether you're reviewing for the first time or doing a final refresh, here's how to get the most out of your Examzify study guide:

1. Start with a Diagnostic Review

Skim through the questions to get a sense of what you know and what you need to focus on. Your goal is to identify knowledge gaps early.

2. Study in Short, Focused Sessions

Break your study time into manageable blocks (e.g. 30 – 45 minutes). Review a handful of questions, reflect on the explanations.

3. Learn from the Explanations

After answering a question, always read the explanation, even if you got it right. It reinforces key points, corrects misunderstandings, and teaches subtle distinctions between similar answers.

4. Track Your Progress

Use bookmarks or notes (if reading digitally) to mark difficult questions. Revisit these regularly and track improvements over time.

5. Simulate the Real Exam

Once you're comfortable, try taking a full set of questions without pausing. Set a timer and simulate test-day conditions to build confidence and time management skills.

6. Repeat and Review

Don't just study once, repetition builds retention. Re-attempt questions after a few days and revisit explanations to reinforce learning. Pair this guide with other Examzify tools like flashcards, and digital practice tests to strengthen your preparation across formats.

There's no single right way to study, but consistent, thoughtful effort always wins. Use this guide flexibly, adapt the tips above to fit your pace and learning style. You've got this!

Questions

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- 1. Which describes the primary type of damage from a structure fire?**
 - A. Primary (fire and smoke)
 - B. Secondary (fire suppression activities)
 - C. Tertiary (water damage)
 - D. Quaternary (wind damage)
- 2. Which sign indicates walls offset from elongation of steel roof supports?**
 - A. Walls offset from elongation of steel roof supports
 - B. Weakened floors
 - C. Spalled concrete
 - D. Heavy storage in mezzanines
- 3. Which device is designed to prevent electrical shock by interrupting a circuit when a ground fault is detected?**
 - A. Fuses power
 - B. Circuit breaker
 - C. Surge protector
 - D. Ground-fault circuit interrupter
- 4. Which valve type is commonly used on pumper discharge lines and gated wyes?**
 - A. Ball valve
 - B. Gate valve
 - C. Butterfly valve
 - D. Clapper valve
- 5. On the floor above the fire floor in an above-grade fire, what should you do?**
 - A. Ventilate
 - B. Check for victims and fire extension
 - C. Pull ceiling
 - D. Abandon

- 6. Which type of intake strainer is used when drafting from a natural source?**
- A. Low level strainers
 - B. Floating strainers
 - C. Barrel strainers
 - D. Drafting strainers
- 7. What does chain of custody mean in fire investigations?**
- A. Evidence of accountability that documents each change of possession
 - B. A record of who owned the evidence at the time of discovery
 - C. A log of all fire equipment used
 - D. A form listing the building's permits
- 8. Which of the following abbreviations stands for a Valve type known as WPIV?**
- A. Wall Post Indicator Valve
 - B. Wall Post Inlet Valve
 - C. Weighted Post Indicator Valve
 - D. Wall Post Indicator Vent
- 9. Which statement about a flat load is true?**
- A. It is the easiest and least subject to wear from vibration
 - B. It is the heaviest load to move
 - C. It uses a zigzag pattern
 - D. It is always used for long-distance lines
- 10. Should you preemptively spray smoke to cool the area?**
- A. Yes, always preemptively spray to cool the area
 - B. No, you should not preemptively spray smoke.
 - C. Only if protective stream is required.
 - D. It depends on ventilation.

Answers

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1. A
2. A
3. D
4. A
5. B
6. C
7. A
8. A
9. A
10. B

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Explanations

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1. Which describes the primary type of damage from a structure fire?

- A. Primary (fire and smoke)**
- B. Secondary (fire suppression activities)
- C. Tertiary (water damage)
- D. Quaternary (wind damage)

Direct effects of the fire—flames and the smoke they produce—are the primary damage in a structure fire. Flames consume materials, transfer heat, and can ignite surrounding items, causing the most immediate and widespread destruction to structure and contents. The heat from the fire weakens and can warp or collapse structural members, while smoke and soot stain surfaces, obscure visibility, and pose serious health hazards to occupants and responders. Water from firefighting and other suppression activities leads to significant damage as well, but that damage is considered secondary because it results from the suppression efforts after the fire has started. Wind or other external forces may contribute to additional damage, but they do not define the core impact of a structure fire.

2. Which sign indicates walls offset from elongation of steel roof supports?

- A. Walls offset from elongation of steel roof supports**
- B. Weakened floors
- C. Spalled concrete
- D. Heavy storage in mezzanines

Thermal expansion of steel framing is the key idea. When steel roof supports heat up, they lengthen. If walls don't stay in line with where the roof framing would extend, you'll see the walls offset from the roof supports. That misalignment is a reliable indicator that the steel is elongating and the structure is undergoing distortion from heat, signaling potential collapse. The other signs point to different problems—weakened floors reflect floor system damage, spalled concrete shows concrete deterioration, and heavy storage in mezzanines indicates overloading—none of which specifically describe the elongation and resulting wall offset caused by heated steel. So the wall offset is the observable sign that directly shows elongation of the steel roof members.

3. Which device is designed to prevent electrical shock by interrupting a circuit when a ground fault is detected?

- A. Fuses power
- B. Circuit breaker
- C. Surge protector
- D. Ground-fault circuit interrupter**

Ground-fault protection prevents electrical shock by interrupting the circuit as soon as current leaks to ground. It works by monitoring the current flowing in the hot conductor and returning through the neutral. If any of that current escapes to ground, the two paths become unbalanced, and the device trips almost instantly, typically at a few milliamps of leakage, shutting off power in a fraction of a second. This rapid response is what stops a person from receiving a dangerous shock if a live conductor contacts water or a conductive surface. Fuses and circuit breakers protect against overcurrent and short circuits by opening when current exceeds a safe limit, but they don't sense small leakage to ground. Surge protectors focus on absorbing or shunting voltage spikes and don't provide the same ground-fault protection. So the device designed to prevent shock by interrupting the circuit on a ground fault is the ground-fault circuit interrupter.

4. Which valve type is commonly used on pumper discharge lines and gated wyes?

- A. Ball valve**
- B. Gate valve
- C. Butterfly valve
- D. Clapper valve

Quick, positive shutoff on high-pressure discharge lines is essential in pumper operations. A ball valve achieves this with a simple quarter-turn mechanism: a spherical ball with a bore that aligns with the flow when open and blocks it when closed. This design provides a full, unobstructed flow path and a tight seal, making it fast to operate and highly reliable under the demanding conditions of firefighting. It also tolerates frequent on/off use with gloves and resists leakage when fully open or closed, which is crucial when working with multiple hoses on a gated wye. Gate valves require multiple turns to move the gate into or out of the flow, which slows operation and can lead to leaks if not fully actuated. Butterfly valves introduce a disc that sits in the flow path and can cause more pressure drop and sealing concerns under debris and dirt common in firefighting environments. Clapper valves are check valves used to prevent backflow and aren't designed for the rapid, intentional control of discharge lines. Therefore, ball valve is the best choice for this scenario.

5. On the floor above the fire floor in an above-grade fire, what should you do?

- A. Ventilate
- B. Check for victims and fire extension**
- C. Pull ceiling
- D. Abandon

When you reach the floor above the fire floor in an above-grade fire, your first job is to assess life safety and fire conditions on that level by checking for victims and determining whether the fire has extended there. This quick size-up tells you if anyone is trapped and whether the fire is present on that floor, which directly guides your next moves—whether to continue a search, back up the attack with another line, or change tactics based on extension. Ventilation and ceiling-pulling have their places, but they depend on knowing where people are and whether the fire is on that floor; ventilating without that information can drive heat and smoke toward victims or teammates, and pulling ceilings is not the immediate step you take just after arriving on that level. Abandonment isn't a viable option—you stay engaged to locate occupants and control the fire.

6. Which type of intake strainer is used when drafting from a natural source?

- A. Low level strainers
- B. Floating strainers
- C. Barrel strainers**
- D. Drafting strainers

When drafting from a natural water source, you need an intake device that protects the pump from debris while staying securely in the water. A barrel strainer fits this need because it's a rugged, cylindrical end that attaches to the suction line and sits in the water. Its screen basket catches leaves, twigs, silt, and other debris before they can enter the pump, which helps prevent clogs and damage. The design also allows quick removal and cleaning between uses, which is practical when conditions in a natural source can change quickly. Floating strainers tend to sit on the surface and can draw in surface debris or become unstable in vegetation, making them less reliable for steady pumping from natural sources. Low-level strainers are designed for positioning near the bottom in specific drafting setups and aren't the standard choice for general natural-source drafting. Drafting strainers is a general term, but barrel strainers are the specific type equipped to handle the debris-loaded environment encountered when drawing from natural waters.

7. What does chain of custody mean in fire investigations?

- A. Evidence of accountability that documents each change of possession**
- B. A record of who owned the evidence at the time of discovery
- C. A log of all fire equipment used
- D. A form listing the building's permits

Chain of custody means the documented, unbroken trail showing who has handled or possessed evidence from the moment it is collected until it is presented or disposed of. It focuses on accountability for every change of possession, including who collected the item, where it was stored, any transfers, packaging and labeling, dates and times, and any analyses performed, all with proper signatures. This continuous record preserves the evidence's integrity and supports its admissibility by proving it hasn't been altered or contaminated. The description that emphasizes documenting each change of possession best fits this concept. The other options miss the core idea by focusing on ownership at discovery, an equipment log, or building permits, none of which address the custody and handling trail of evidence.

8. Which of the following abbreviations stands for a Valve type known as WPIV?

- A. Wall Post Indicator Valve**
- B. Wall Post Inlet Valve
- C. Weighted Post Indicator Valve
- D. Wall Post Indicator Vent

WPIV stands for Wall Post Indicator Valve. This refers to a valve arrangement on a water main where a post or wall-mounted indicator shows the valve's position (open or closed), helping responders quickly verify status during incidents. The term emphasizes the visual indicator and the wall/post installation, which is why the option that uses Wall Post Indicator Valve is the correct choice. The other phrases change either the meaning (inlet, weighted) or add a different feature (vent) that isn't part of the standard WPIV designation.

9. Which statement about a flat load is true?

- A. It is the easiest and least subject to wear from vibration**
- B. It is the heaviest load to move
- C. It uses a zigzag pattern
- D. It is always used for long-distance lines

A flat load is arranged so the hose sits in flat, even layers along the bed, creating a compact, straight bundle. This setup makes the hose easy to grab and pull out smoothly, so deployment starts quickly with minimal fighting through tangled folds. Because the hose isn't stacked in bulky, uneven piles or pulled into a zigzag pattern, there's less movement and abrasion as the vehicle travels, which means the hose is less subject to wear from vibration. Weight isn't inherently about being the heaviest to move—the actual load depends on length and size of hose—so the flat arrangement is favored for its ease of handling and faster deployment rather than for maximum weight. The zigzag pattern describes a different loading style, not a defining feature of the flat load, and flat loads aren't inherently reserved for long-distance lines in every situation.

10. Should you preemptively spray smoke to cool the area?

- A. Yes, always preemptively spray to cool the area
- B. No, you should not preemptively spray smoke.**
- C. Only if protective stream is required.
- D. It depends on ventilation.

Cooling the area during a fire is done with water, not with smoke. Spraying smoke would not remove heat or slow the fire; it would add hot, toxic gases and reduce visibility, making conditions more dangerous and hampering your ability to find and attack the fire. Water absorbs a lot of heat when it turns to steam, providing real cooling and helping to prevent flashover. So preemptively spraying smoke is not a valid tactic. The safe, effective approach is to use a properly applied water stream to cool and protect, and to manage smoke through ventilation as needed.

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Next Steps

Congratulations on reaching the final section of this guide. You've taken a meaningful step toward passing your certification exam and advancing your career.

As you continue preparing, remember that consistent practice, review, and self-reflection are key to success. Make time to revisit difficult topics, simulate exam conditions, and track your progress along the way.

If you need help, have suggestions, or want to share feedback, we'd love to hear from you. Reach out to our team at hello@examzify.com.

Or visit your dedicated course page for more study tools and resources:

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We wish you the very best on your exam journey. You've got this!

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