FDNY COF FOR FIRE ALARM SYSTEMS INSPECTION, TESTING AND SERVICE TECHNICIAN (S-98) PRACTICE EXAM (SAMPLE)

STUDY GUIDE



SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS

VISIT US ONLINE FOR THE FULL VERSION STUDY GUIDE

https://fdnycofs98.examzify.com

Copyright © 2026 by Examzify - A Kaluba Technologies Inc. product.

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

No part of this book may be reproduced or transferred in any form or by any means, graphic, electronic, or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, web distribution, taping, or by any information storage retrieval system, without the written permission of the author.

Notice: Examzify makes every reasonable effort to obtain accurate, complete, and timely information about this product from reliable sources.

SAMPLE

Table of Contents

Copyright 1

Table of Contents 2

Introduction 3

How to Use This Guide 4

Questions 5

Answers 8

Explanations 10

Next Steps 15

SAMPLE

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.

SAMPLE

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!

SAMPLE

Questions

SAMPLE

1. What is the role of a notification appliance in a fire alarm system?

A. To regulate HVAC

B. To alert occupants through audible and/or visual signals

C. To detect smoke

D. To monitor power

2. When reporting uninstalled devices, what should be included in the records?

A. Notes indicating isolation and planned installation/removal

B. A simple 'inactive' stamp

C. No entry is needed

D. A warranty card

3. Secondary power supplies for emergency voice evacuation systems must operate in a non-alarm condition for how many hours and, under maximum load, for a minimum of how many minutes?

A. 12 hours and 10 minutes

B. 24 hours and 15 minutes

C. 30 hours and 20 minutes

D. 18 hours and 5 minutes

4. What is the maximum candela (cd) rating allowed for a visible signaling appliance?

A. 1000 CD

B. 500 CD

C. 200 CD

D. 1500 CD

5. Which statement accurately reflects the location requirement for essential documents?

A. They must be provided on premise, at an approved location

B. They must be provided only to the city fire department

C. They are optional for small facilities

D. They must be posted publicly

SAMPLE

6. When testing for proper calibration of smoke detectors, which option would be disallowed?

A. Aerosol spray or canned smoke

B. A manufacturer-approved smoke test

C. Using a calibrated detector tester

D. Visual check during routine service

7. Records of inspections, testing, servicing, or maintenance must be retained on site for how long?

A. 3 years

B. 1 year

C. 5 years

D. 7 years

8. What is the primary purpose of a heat detector in a fire alarm system?

A. To detect smoke particles.

B. To monitor humidity.

C. To detect excessive temperature or a rate of rise indicating a fire.

D. To measure carbon monoxide levels.

9. Name two common fire detector types used to detect smoke.

A. Photoelectric detectors and ionization detectors.

B. Heat detectors and carbon monoxide detectors.

C. Photoelectric detectors and heat detectors.

D. Ionization detectors and gas detectors.

10. What is the maximum distance allowed for a shunt loop circuit?

A. 500 feet

B. 750 feet

C. 1000 feet

D. 1250 feet

SAMPLE

Answers

SAMPLE

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

SAMPLE

Explanations

SAMPLE

1. What is the role of a notification appliance in a fire alarm system?

A. To regulate HVAC

B. To alert occupants through audible and/or visual signals

C. To detect smoke

D. To monitor power

The essential role of a notification appliance is to communicate the alarm to people in the building by delivering audible and/or visual signals. When the fire alarm system is activated, these devices (horns, bells, chirpers, strobes, or speaker–strobe units) warn occupants that there is an emergency so they can evacuate or take appropriate action. They are the output interface that translates the detected alarm condition into understandable warnings. This function is not about detecting smoke, which is done by detectors, nor about regulating HVAC or monitoring power, which are handled by other parts of the system or building systems. The notification appliance focuses on making sure the warning reaches people clearly and promptly.

2. When reporting uninstalled devices, what should be included in the records?

A. Notes indicating isolation and planned installation/removal

B. A simple 'inactive' stamp

C. No entry is needed

D. A warranty card

When devices aren't installed yet, the records should clearly show their status and next actions. The best practice is to include notes that indicate the device is isolated and outline the plan for installation or removal, along with any scheduled dates and the person responsible. This creates an auditable trail, prevents confusion about whether the device is active, and supports scheduling, testing, and compliance. Labels like just calling something inactive don't give the time frame or reason, leaving unclear what's supposed to happen next. Not recording anything leaves a gap in asset tracking, and a warranty card isn't relevant to installation status or future actions.

3. Secondary power supplies for emergency voice evacuation systems must operate in a non-alarm condition for how many hours and, under maximum load, for a minimum of how many minutes?

A. 12 hours and 10 minutes

B. 24 hours and 15 minutes

C. 30 hours and 20 minutes

D. 18 hours and 5 minutes

Secondary power supplies for emergency voice evacuation systems are designed to keep critical life-safety communications running during power outages. In non-alarm conditions, the system should be able to operate for 24 hours on standby power, ensuring readiness for extended outages. When the system is under maximum load—such as when it is actively transmitting evacuation messages—the power supply must sustain operation for at least 15 minutes. This combination ensures the system remains available both through prolonged outages and through brief periods of peak demand during an alarm. That's why the required durations are 24 hours in non-alarm condition and 15 minutes at maximum load.

SAMPLE

4. What is the maximum candela (cd) rating allowed for a visible signaling appliance?

A. 1000 CD

B. 500 CD

C. 200 CD

D. 1500 CD

Brightness of a visible signaling appliance is measured in candela, and code requirements set a practical ceiling for what is used in standard fire alarm installations. The limit keeps signaling devices clearly visible without causing unnecessary glare or distraction, while still allowing effective notification across typical building spaces. For visible signaling devices used in normal installations, 1000 candela is the maximum rating allowed. Higher ratings would classify the device as high intensity signaling and would require special approval and additional testing. So the largest standard option you'd see for a visible signaling appliance is 1000 cd. Lower ratings like 200 or 500 cd are permitted but not the maximum, while 1500 cd exceeds the standard limit.

5. Which statement accurately reflects the location requirement for essential documents?

A. They must be provided on premise, at an approved location

B. They must be provided only to the city fire department

C. They are optional for small facilities

D. They must be posted publicly

Essential documents must be kept on the property at an approved on-site location so they're immediately accessible during inspections, audits, or emergencies. When the records—such as system drawings, test and maintenance logs, permits, and correspondence—are stored on-site in a designated spot, the fire department and other authorities can verify that the fire alarm system is installed, maintained, and tested as required without delays. This accessibility also helps facility staff reference the most recent tests and configurations quickly when addressing alarm events. Providing these records only to the city fire department is too restrictive, since other authorized parties—like the building owner, facility manager, or service technicians—need access for ongoing compliance and maintenance. Making the documents optional because the facility is small isn't correct, as all facilities have to maintain essential documentation. Posting them publicly isn't required and could expose sensitive information.

6. When testing for proper calibration of smoke detectors, which option would be disallowed?

A. Aerosol spray or canned smoke

B. A manufacturer-approved smoke test

C. Using a calibrated detector tester

D. Visual check during routine service

Testing for proper calibration requires a known, repeatable stimulus that matches the detector's specified response. Aerosol spray or canned smoke doesn't provide a controlled, calibrated challenge—its particle size, concentration, and dispersion vary widely and can leave residues inside the sensor. That variability can lead to unreliable results, potential sensor contamination, and even damage, so it's not an approved method for calibrating smoke detectors. Use a manufacturer-approved smoke test or a calibrated detector tester, which deliver a documented, consistent stimulus. Visual checks during routine service don't verify calibration, though they're still useful for basic inspection.

SAMPLE

7. Records of inspections, testing, servicing, or maintenance must be retained on site for how long?

A. 3 years

B. 1 year

C. 5 years

D. 7 years

Maintaining on-site records is about proving ongoing compliance and providing ready access to the system's maintenance history. In New York City, records of inspections, testing, servicing, and maintenance for fire alarm systems must be kept on the premises for three years. This ensures that building management, the fire department, and any authorities having jurisdiction can review the system's maintenance history quickly during inspections or emergencies. The files should document dates of inspections, work performed, equipment involved, any deficiencies found, corrective actions taken, and who performed the work. Shorter or longer retention periods aren't mandated by this rule, with three years being the required timeframe.

8. What is the primary purpose of a heat detector in a fire alarm system?

A. To detect smoke particles.

B. To monitor humidity.

C. To detect excessive temperature or a rate of rise indicating a fire.

D. To measure carbon monoxide levels.

The key idea is that heat detectors respond to heat, not smoke. Their job is to trigger when the temperature in a space becomes excessive or rises rapidly, signaling a fire. This can happen in two common ways: a fixed temperature threshold (the detector trips once the ambient temperature reaches a set point) or a rapid rate-of-rise (the temperature climbs quickly enough to indicate a fire even if the absolute temperature isn't very high yet). This makes heat detectors useful in areas where smoke detectors might give false alarms due to dust, steam, or airflow, or in locations where a rapid heat increase is a clearer sign of danger. They are a different tool from smoke detectors (which sense particles in the air), humidity sensors (which monitor moisture), and carbon monoxide detectors (which detect CO gas). In a well-designed system, heat detectors complement other devices to provide reliable fire detection based on the environment and the type of fire.

9. Name two common fire detector types used to detect smoke.

A. Photoelectric detectors and ionization detectors.

B. Heat detectors and carbon monoxide detectors.

C. Photoelectric detectors and heat detectors.

D. Ionization detectors and gas detectors.

Two common fire detector types used to detect smoke are photoelectric detectors and ionization detectors. Photoelectric detectors rely on a light source and a sensor. In normal operation, the light isn't directed at the sensor, but when smoke enters the chamber, the smoke particles scatter the light into the sensor, triggering the alarm. This type responds quickly to smoldering fires that produce a lot of visible smoke particles. Ionization detectors contain a small amount of radioactive material that creates a steady current between two plates. When smoke enters the chamber, it disrupts this current, causing the detector to trigger. They react rapidly to flaming fires that emit small, fast-moving particles. These two are specifically designed for detecting smoke, unlike heat detectors (which respond to high temperatures), carbon monoxide detectors (which detect CO gas), or gas detectors (which detect various gases).

SAMPLE

10. What is the maximum distance allowed for a shunt loop circuit?

A. 500 feet

B. 750 feet

C. 1000 feet

D. 1250 feet

Shunt loop circuits must stay within a limited length so the control panel can reliably monitor and power every device on the loop. Every device and conductor adds resistance; as the loop gets longer, the overall impedance increases and there's more voltage drop. That can push the circuit outside its supervision and signaling thresholds, making alarms slower to register or harder to verify during tests. The 750-foot limit provides a practical balance between wiring practicality and ensuring the initiating devices still receive enough voltage and current to operate properly and stay supervised. Shorter runs are fine and reduce voltage drop; longer runs risk unreliable signaling or supervision. That's why 750 feet is the standard maximum for a shunt loop circuit.

SAMPLE

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:

https://fdnycofs98.examzify.com

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

SAMPLE