

NEW YORK CITY FIRE SAFETY DIRECTOR (FSD) PRACTICE TEST (SAMPLE)

STUDY GUIDE



**SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE
WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS**

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THE FULL VERSION STUDY GUIDE**

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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

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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 of the following is NOT listed as a possible driver for centrifugal fire pumps?**
 - A. Electric motors
 - B. Internal combustion engines
 - C. Steam turbines
 - D. Hydraulic motors
- 2. A fire pump is usually connected to what for most of its water supply?**
 - A. a suction tank
 - B. a gravity tank
 - C. the building water tank
 - D. the public water main
- 3. Care must be taken to ensure that no part of an automatic sprinkler head is damaged when a room or the piping is painted or whitewashed, because it could interfere with the free movement of the links and levers and delay the opening of the sprinkler head, preventing the discharge of water. What is the likely outcome of such painting?**
 - A. Delays the opening of the sprinkler head
 - B. Causes the head to discharge water immediately
 - C. Increases water pressure
 - D. Improves reliability
- 4. Standpipe risers are typically located in the building's staircase enclosures or in the building hallways. Which of the following best represents this statement?**
 - A. Staircase enclosures only
 - B. Hallways only
 - C. Both staircase enclosures and hallways
 - D. Roof
- 5. Which component shut down parts of the standpipe system for testing or maintenance?**
 - A. Drain valve
 - B. OS&Y gate valve
 - C. Pressure reducing device
 - D. Fire pump

- 6. Fire pumps are designed to take the water from a supply source and then discharge the water into the standpipe or sprinkler system under pressure. The pressure with which the water is discharged from the pump is called the**
- A. discharge pressure
 - B. outbound head
 - C. primary head pressure
 - D. total head
- 7. The transfer of heat through liquids or gases, including smoke, is called?**
- A. Convection
 - B. Transference
 - C. Ambience
 - D. Conduction
- 8. Where should one Fire Brigade member be stationed to direct the Fire Department to the fire location and inform them of conditions?**
- A. two floors below the fire floor
 - B. the floor below the fire floor
 - C. three floors below the fire floor
 - D. two floors above the fire floor
- 9. Indicating devices in Class E Fire Alarm Signal Systems must describe**
- A. The purpose they serve
 - B. The name of the manufacturer
 - C. The date of system installation
 - D. The source of the power supply
- 10. Who is authorized to shut off the main control panel after a fire alarm has been activated?**
- A. Only the Certificate of Fitness holder
 - B. Only a uniformed member of the NYFD
 - C. The Certificate of Fitness Holder or a member of the engineering staff
 - D. The Certificate of Fitness Holder or an FDNY representative

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Which of the following is NOT listed as a possible driver for centrifugal fire pumps?

- A. Electric motors
- B. Internal combustion engines
- C. Steam turbines
- D. Hydraulic motors**

The key idea is what type of power source is used to turn a centrifugal fire pump. In fire protection systems, the pump is driven by a prime mover that provides reliable rotation: electric motors for everyday operation, diesel engines for standby power, and steam turbines for large-scale needs. These options are designed to start quickly, run reliably under fire conditions, and integrate with building power or the stand-by power systems. Hydraulic motors, by contrast, require a separate pressurized hydraulic power source and a dedicated fluid circuit. That adds complexity, potential failure points, and the risk that the hydraulic supply could be compromised during a fire. Because this setup isn't used as a standard driver for centrifugal fire pumps, hydraulic motors aren't listed as an option.

2. A fire pump is usually connected to what for most of its water supply?

- A. a suction tank
- B. a gravity tank
- C. the building water tank
- D. the public water main**

The main idea is that fire pumps are there to boost water pressure for the fire protection system, and they need a steady, ample water source. For most buildings, that source comes from the public water main—the city supply. The pump pulls water from the municipal main and increases its pressure to feed the standpipes and sprinklers during a fire. On-site storage like gravity tanks or building tanks can supplement or back up the supply, but they aren't the primary source for most of the water. Relying on the public main ensures enough water and pressure even if on-site storage is limited or if demand is high during a fire.

3. Care must be taken to ensure that no part of an automatic sprinkler head is damaged when a room or the piping is painted or whitewashed, because it could interfere with the free movement of the links and levers and delay the opening of the sprinkler head, preventing the discharge of water. What is the likely outcome of such painting?

- A. Delays the opening of the sprinkler head**
- B. Causes the head to discharge water immediately
- C. Increases water pressure
- D. Improves reliability

Painting or whitewashing around an automatic sprinkler head can interfere with its ability to respond promptly. The sprinkler relies on a free, unobstructed mechanism—links, levers, and the heat-sensitive element—to release the head and allow water to discharge when heated. Coating the head or its moving parts can impede movement or insulate the heat-responsive component, delaying activation. As a result, the sprinkler may open more slowly than intended, delaying water discharge during a fire and increasing potential damage. This is why sprinklers must be kept clean and unobstructed, with any painting avoided on the heads themselves. The other outcomes—immediate discharge, higher water pressure, or improved reliability—do not occur from painting, since the coating hampers the mechanism rather than enhances its function.

4. Standpipe risers are typically located in the building's staircase enclosures or in the building hallways. Which of the following best represents this statement?

- A. Staircase enclosures only
- B. Hallways only
- C. Both staircase enclosures and hallways**
- D. Roof

Standpipe risers must be reachable on every floor by firefighters and occupants, and they need to be placed where they can be accessed quickly without being blocked or compromised by smoke. The stairway enclosure is a primary location because it provides a protected, reliable route from lower to upper floors, keeping the riser safe and readily accessible from the main vertical travel path. However, some building designs place a standpipe in the hallway on each floor to ensure there is an immediate connection point in the corridor area, especially when the layout makes corridor access more direct or when the stair enclosure isn't the most convenient route on every floor. Because both placements support quick, safe access to the standpipe on multiple floors, the statement that standpipe risers are typically located in either staircase enclosures or hallways reflects common practice. Roof locations are not used for serving standpipes on each floor.

5. Which component shut down parts of the standpipe system for testing or maintenance?

- A. Drain valve
- B. OS&Y gate valve**
- C. Pressure reducing device
- D. Fire pump

To isolate a section of a standpipe for testing or maintenance, you need a valve that can completely stop water flow in that leg of the system. An outside screw and yoke (OS&Y) gate valve serves this purpose as the main shutoff for standpipe and sprinkler mains. When fully closed, it seals the line, and its position is visible from the outside, so you can clearly confirm the section is shut before work begins. Drain valves are for removing water after isolation, not for stopping flow; a pressure reducing device changes pressure rather than providing an isolation point; a fire pump supplies water to the system, not isolate a section.

6. Fire pumps are designed to take the water from a supply source and then discharge the water into the standpipe or sprinkler system under pressure. The pressure with which the water is discharged from the pump is called the

- A. discharge pressure
- B. outbound head
- C. primary head pressure
- D. total head**

Think in terms of energy the pump must deliver to move water through the whole system. The water isn't just pushed out at a certain pressure; it has to overcome elevation differences, friction in all the pipes and fittings, and the velocity of the flow at the discharge. All of those factors add up to a single measure called total head. This head represents the total energy per unit weight that the pump provides to the water to get it where it's needed and at the required flow rate. Discharge pressure by itself only tells you the pressure at the discharge point and doesn't account for elevation changes or losses along the path. The other terms aren't standard ways to describe the pump's output in this context, whereas total head encompasses the entire energy requirement of the system. If you know the system demands a certain head, you know what the pump must be able to supply at discharge to meet that demand.

7. The transfer of heat through liquids or gases, including smoke, is called?

- A. Convection**
- B. Transference
- C. Ambience
- D. Conduction

Convection is the transfer of heat through liquids or gases by the movement of the fluid itself. In a fire, heating the air or smoke causes it to rise and create circulating currents, carrying heat to other areas of the space. This movement explains how heat and smoke travel through rooms and between floors, influencing fire growth and ventilation strategies. It's different from conduction, which transfers heat through direct contact in solids (or still liquids) without bulk motion, and from radiation, which conveys heat through electromagnetic waves without needing the fluid to move.

8. Where should one Fire Brigade member be stationed to direct the Fire Department to the fire location and inform them of conditions?

- A. two floors below the fire floor
- B. the floor below the fire floor**
- C. three floors below the fire floor
- D. two floors above the fire floor

During a high-rise incident, the Fire Brigade member serves as the on-scene guide for the Fire Department, directing crews to the fire location and relaying conditions. Placing this person on the floor directly below the fire floor gives fast, direct access to the stairwell and doors that lead to the fire area, so they can efficiently point arriving units to the correct route and provide real-time updates on smoke, heat, and access. This position keeps them out of the most hazardous space on the fire floor while still close enough to communicate exact location and conditions. Being two or three floors below would slow coordination and reduce precision, and being above the fire floor would expose them to greater heat and smoke and hinder safe communication. So the best placement is on the floor directly below the fire floor.

9. Indicating devices in Class E Fire Alarm Signal Systems must describe

- A. The purpose they serve
- B. The name of the manufacturer
- C. The date of system installation
- D. The source of the power supply

Indicating devices are there to tell people what will happen or what action is expected when the device activates. In a Class E fire alarm signal system, quick and clear understanding is crucial for safe evacuation and appropriate response. Therefore, these devices must describe the purpose they serve so occupants instantly know what the signal means (for example, that it indicates a fire condition requiring evacuation). The other details—manufacturer name, installation date, or the power source—do not convey the action occupants should take and are not necessary for immediate, on-scene understanding of the signal.

10. Who is authorized to shut off the main control panel after a fire alarm has been activated?

- A. Only the Certificate of Fitness holder
- B. Only a uniformed member of the NYFD
- C. The Certificate of Fitness Holder or a member of the engineering staff
- D. The Certificate of Fitness Holder or an FDNY representative

Controlling the main control panel after a fire alarm is activated requires someone with formal authority to operate the fire alarm system. The fire safety responsibility rests with the Certificate of Fitness holder, who is the building's Fire Safety Director and is specifically trained and authorized to silence or reset the fire alarm panel and coordinate response. If FDNY personnel are on scene and take control, an FDNY representative may shut off the panel as part of their incident management. An NYFD member alone isn't the only authorized person, and engineering staff typically don't have automatic authority to disable the main panel unless they're the COF holder or FDNY directs them. Therefore, the authorized people are the Certificate of Fitness holder or an FDNY representative.

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://nycfsd.examzify.com>

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

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