

Alabama Fire College HAZMAT Technician Practice Test (Sample)

Study Guide



Everything you need from our exam experts!

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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 elements are encompassed in Step 1 of the eight-step process?**
 - A. Assume command; isolate people; establish isolation perimeter and hazard control zones**
 - B. Deploy medical teams**
 - C. Conduct extensive hazard analysis only**
 - D. Initiate public messaging**

- 2. Secondary contamination is defined as**
 - A. Direct physical contact with contaminant**
 - B. Contact with person or object previously contaminated**
 - C. Adverse effects to fetus during pregnancy**
 - D. Absorption of contaminant into clothing**

- 3. What does PEL stand for in occupational exposure metrics?**
 - A. Permissible Exposure Limit**
 - B. Peak Exposure Limit**
 - C. Professional Exposure Level**
 - D. Permissible Exposure Level**

- 4. What does the White section on an NFPA 704 placard represent?**
 - A. Health**
 - B. Flammability**
 - C. Reactivity**
 - D. Specific hazards (MISC)**

- 5. Which DOT specification has a horse shoe shaped tank?**
 - A. DOT 406**
 - B. DOT 407**
 - C. DOT 412**
 - D. MC338**

- 6. Which trailer is designed to discharge product by blowing out the bottom and has 1500 Cu/ft capacity?**
- A. DOT 406**
 - B. Dry Bulk Trailers**
 - C. Cryogenic Liquid tank car**
 - D. Specification plate**
- 7. Acute exposure is best described as which?**
- A. High exposure, short time**
 - B. Low exposure, long time**
 - C. Acute exposure refers to long-term exposure**
 - D. The amount of exposure that is tolerable**
- 8. Which action is shown to reduce about 80 percent of contaminant on a person?**
- A. Removing clothing reduces 80% of contaminant**
 - B. Applying lotion after decon**
 - C. Rinsing only the hands**
 - D. Wrapping in a blanket**
- 9. Which statement correctly describes Medical Surveillance?**
- A. Ongoing systematic evaluation, determines if one can perform duties; and detects changes due to exposures**
 - B. A one-time medical check at hire**
 - C. Only records of illness without evaluation**
 - D. Only monitors PPE usage**
- 10. The HazMat Group Leader reports to which ICS section?**
- A. Planning**
 - B. Operations**
 - C. Logistics**
 - D. Finance**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Which elements are encompassed in Step 1 of the eight-step process?

- A. Assume command; isolate people; establish isolation perimeter and hazard control zones**
- B. Deploy medical teams**
- C. Conduct extensive hazard analysis only**
- D. Initiate public messaging**

The first actions at a hazmat incident center on establishing control and safety. Assuming command creates a single, accountable point of leadership to set priorities, coordinate resources, and ensure clear communication to everyone on scene. Isolating people reduces exposure and preserves the scene for responders and investigators. Establishing an isolation perimeter and hazard control zones creates physical boundaries that separate the contaminated area from the rest of the scene, allowing responders to operate safely and to manage decontamination and access effectively. These steps set the framework for all subsequent actions, from risk assessment to containment and decon. Deployed medical teams and extensive hazard analysis come after safety and command basics are in place, and public messaging is handled as part of ongoing incident management rather than the very first actions.

2. Secondary contamination is defined as

- A. Direct physical contact with contaminant**
- B. Contact with person or object previously contaminated**
- C. Adverse effects to fetus during pregnancy**
- D. Absorption of contaminant into clothing**

Secondary contamination happens when you transfer a contaminant from the original source to a new person or object by contact with something that has already been contaminated. It's not the initial exposure to the contaminant itself, but the spread of that contaminant after initial contamination has occurred. For example, if a contaminated patient or surface is touched, the contaminant can transfer to your hands or gear, and from there to other surfaces or people, creating new contamination. That's why this description fits best: contact with a person or object that was already contaminated. The other ideas describe exposure to the contaminant directly, effects on a fetus, or contaminants being absorbed into clothing—none capture the transfer from an already contaminated source to another recipient.

3. What does PEL stand for in occupational exposure metrics?

- A. Permissible Exposure Limit**
- B. Peak Exposure Limit**
- C. Professional Exposure Level**
- D. Permissible Exposure Level**

The main idea here is understanding what PEL means in workplace exposure metrics. PEL stands for Permissible Exposure Limit, which is the maximum concentration or amount of a hazardous substance that a worker can be exposed to, and it's an enforceable limit set by OSHA. This limit is usually expressed as an eight-hour time-weighted average, though some substances also have short-term exposure limits for brief intervals. Other phrases like Peak Exposure Limit or Permissible Exposure Level aren't the standard OSHA terms for this metric, and "Permissible Exposure Limit" is the official designation.

4. What does the White section on an NFPA 704 placard represent?

- A. Health**
- B. Flammability**
- C. Reactivity**
- D. Specific hazards (MISC)**

Special hazards are shown in the white section of an NFPA 704 placard. That space is reserved for additional hazards beyond health, flammability, and reactivity—things like oxidizers, water-reactive materials, or other noted risks. For responders, this signals precautions that go beyond the numeric ratings. So the white area represents these specific hazards, which is why that choice is correct. The other colored sections cover health, flammability, and reactivity, not the extra hazards.

5. Which DOT specification has a horse shoe shaped tank?

- A. DOT 406**
- B. DOT 407**
- C. DOT 412**
- D. MC338**

The shape of a highway cargo tank is a quick clue to its DOT specification, especially for non-pressurized tanks carrying flammable liquids. A horse-shoe shaped tank is a distinctive feature of DOT 407, which is a low-pressure, non-pressurized tanker designed for flammable liquids. That curved bottom design helps with drainage and stability when unloading and during transport, and you'll see it specifically associated with this type of tank. Other specs have different end shapes and overall geometry, so they aren't described as a horse-shoe tank. So the horse-shoe shaped tank best aligns with the DOT 407 designation.

6. Which trailer is designed to discharge product by blowing out the bottom and has 1500 Cu/ft capacity?

- A. DOT 406**
- B. Dry Bulk Trailers**
- C. Cryogenic Liquid tank car**
- D. Specification plate**

Bottom-discharge dry bulk trailers are built to carry dry powders and granules and unload by opening a bottom outlet. The material is pushed out the bottom, often with air assist, so it can be discharged quickly and with minimal residue. A capacity around 1500 cubic feet is typical for these trailers, which aligns with the described spec. The other options describe different equipment: a DOT 406 is a liquid fuel tanker, not a dry bulk bottom-discharge trailer; a cryogenic liquid tank car is a railcar for very cold liquids; and a specification plate is just a data plate, not a trailer type.

7. Acute exposure is best described as which?

- A. High exposure, short time**
- B. Low exposure, long time**
- C. Acute exposure refers to long-term exposure**
- D. The amount of exposure that is tolerable**

Acute exposure means taking in a high amount of a hazardous material in a short period, leading to immediate or rapid-onset health effects. In hazmat work, you assess exposure by both how much (concentration) and how long (time) the body is exposed. When the dose is large and the exposure is brief, that's acute exposure because the body reacts quickly to a sudden, intense hazard. This differs from chronic exposure, which involves smaller amounts over a long period and can lead to health effects that develop slowly. The idea of a tolerable amount isn't the definition of acute exposure; exposure limits exist, but acute exposure specifically emphasizes high dose over a short time rather than a long-term, low-dose scenario.

8. Which action is shown to reduce about 80 percent of contaminant on a person?

- A. Removing clothing reduces 80% of contaminant**
- B. Applying lotion after decon**
- C. Rinsing only the hands**
- D. Wrapping in a blanket**

The main idea here is that taking off contaminated clothing is the most effective way to reduce exposure quickly. Clothing often carries a large share of the contaminant, acting as a reservoir that can transfer material to skin or spread it to other surfaces. Removing those contaminated garments at once eliminates a major source of contamination, which is why this step can cut a very large portion of the contaminant—about 80%—from the person. After the clothing is removed, the remaining residues on the skin can be washed away with thorough rinsing. Other actions don't achieve the same level of reduction. Applying lotion after decontamination doesn't remove the chemical and can sometimes trap residues or spread them, making decontamination less effective. Rinsing only the hands leaves most of the contaminant on the body, so it's not nearly sufficient. Wrapping in a blanket doesn't remove any contaminant at all and can spread contaminants or trap heat and moisture, which isn't helpful for decon.

9. Which statement correctly describes Medical Surveillance?

- A. Ongoing systematic evaluation, determines if one can perform duties; and detects changes due to exposures**
- B. A one-time medical check at hire**
- C. Only records of illness without evaluation**
- D. Only monitors PPE usage**

Medical surveillance is an ongoing, systematic process to monitor a worker's health in relation to job exposures. It goes beyond a single check at hire and focuses on tracking fitness to perform duties and catching health changes that may result from exposure to hazardous materials. By starting with a baseline evaluation and conducting periodic exams and, when needed, targeted tests (such as respiratory or hearing assessments), it helps ensure a worker can safely carry out essential tasks and allows for timely interventions if health is affected. This approach also supports evaluating the effectiveness of controls and protecting worker health over time. A one-time medical check at hire misses the ongoing nature of surveillance, while records of illness alone and monitoring only PPE usage don't capture the proactive health monitoring, baseline comparisons, or detection of changes that medical surveillance provides.

10. The HazMat Group Leader reports to which ICS section?

- A. Planning**
- B. Operations**
- C. Logistics**
- D. Finance**

In the Incident Command System, field-level hazard control is handled by the Operations Section. The HazMat Group Leader acts as a tactical supervisor on scene, directing the on-the-ground hazmat actions, coordinating with HazMat resources, and implementing containment, control, and decontamination efforts. This situates the HazMat Group Leader within Operations, reporting up through the Operations chain (to the HazMat Branch Director or Operations Chief as the incident grows). Planning, Logistics, and Finance provide planning, support, and administrative functions, respectively, but they do not oversee on-scene hazmat tactics.

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://alfirecollegehazmat.examzify.com>

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

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