

California Registered Environmental Health Specialist (REHS) Disaster Management 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 burial procedure for human waste is recommended?**
 - A. 2 feet at least, cover with lime, and post with a sign**
 - B. 2 feet, cover with lime, and post with a sign**
 - C. 1 foot, cover with lime, and post with a sign**
 - D. 3 feet, cover with lime, and post with a sign**

- 2. What is mutual aid, and why is resource typing important in disaster management?**
 - A. Formal assistance between jurisdictions; resource sharing is informal.**
 - B. Formal assistance between jurisdictions; resource typing standardizes requests (equipment, personnel) for rapid, accurate provisioning.**
 - C. Mutual aid replaces all local capabilities.**
 - D. Resource typing eliminates the need for training.**

- 3. In ICS, which role is typically NOT part of the Command Staff?**
 - A. Operations Section Chief**
 - B. Public Information Officer**
 - C. Liaison Officer**
 - D. Safety Officer**

- 4. What is a staging area?**
 - A. A location where personnel and equipment wait for assignments.**
 - B. An area where incident communications are processed.**
 - C. A field hospital area.**
 - D. A command post.**

- 5. Which steps are involved in vector control following floods or periods of standing water?**
 - A. Eliminate standing water; implement larviciding with approved agents; conduct public education on breeding-site elimination; perform targeted adulticiding if appropriate and approved.**
 - B. Only use pesticides in all areas regardless of approvals.**
 - C. Do nothing and wait for mosquitoes.**
 - D. Use only mechanical traps.**

- 6. Which statement best describes the role of the Public Information Officer during an incident?**
- A. Direct operation of field units.**
 - B. Coordinate information dissemination to the public and media.**
 - C. Plan logistics.**
 - D. Account for finances.**
- 7. The specified trench size is designed to handle approximately how many people per day?**
- A. 4,000 per day**
 - B. 2,000 per day**
 - C. 12,000 per day**
 - D. 8,000 per day**
- 8. Which of the following is NOT a form of ionizing radiation?**
- A. microwave**
 - B. alpha particles**
 - C. gamma rays**
 - D. x-rays**
- 9. Which of the following can stop a beta particle?**
- A. Wood**
 - B. Lead**
 - C. Concrete**
 - D. Water**
- 10. How long should water be boiled to disinfect it?**
- A. 1-2 minutes**
 - B. 3-5 minutes**
 - C. 6-8 minutes**
 - D. 10-12 minutes**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Which burial procedure for human waste is recommended?

A. 2 feet at least, cover with lime, and post with a sign

B. 2 feet, cover with lime, and post with a sign

C. 1 foot, cover with lime, and post with a sign

D. 3 feet, cover with lime, and post with a sign

Disposal of human waste by burial aims to limit pathogen survival and protect soil and water. The recommended method sets a minimum depth of two feet, ensuring the waste stays well below the surface to reduce exposure to people and animals and to minimize runoff or groundwater infiltration. Spreading lime over the burial helps raise pH and dry the material, which speeds inactivation of many pathogens and helps control odors. Posting a sign at the site communicates that waste has been buried there, helping prevent disturbance and alerting others to avoid digging in that spot. Using a shallower depth (one foot) increases the risk of exposure and contamination, while two feet as a minimum depth balances safety with practicality, with deeper burial being acceptable if conditions require.

2. What is mutual aid, and why is resource typing important in disaster management?

A. Formal assistance between jurisdictions; resource sharing is informal.

B. Formal assistance between jurisdictions; resource typing standardizes requests (equipment, personnel) for rapid, accurate provisioning.

C. Mutual aid replaces all local capabilities.

D. Resource typing eliminates the need for training.

Mutual aid means formal, pre-arranged assistance between different jurisdictions during emergencies, so communities can quickly get the resources they don't have locally. Resource typing is the standard way we describe resources—like equipment, personnel, and services—so requests can be understood and filled accurately across agencies. This combination matters because having formal agreements ensures help is available when needed, while standardized resource descriptions speed up and improve the accuracy of provisioning, avoiding delays or mismatches during fast-moving events. It's not about replacing local capabilities or removing training—mutual aid augments what a local team can do, and resource typing supports clear communication, but training remains essential to use the resources effectively.

3. In ICS, which role is typically NOT part of the Command Staff?

- A. Operations Section Chief**
- B. Public Information Officer**
- C. Liaison Officer**
- D. Safety Officer**

In ICS, the Command Staff handles incident policy, external communications, and safety oversight, typically consisting of the Public Information Officer, Safety Officer, and Liaison Officer. The Operations Section Chief sits in the General Staff and directs the tactical, on-scene operations within the Operations Section. Keeping these roles separate ensures that on-scene execution (Operations) is distinct from public messaging and interagency coordination (Command Staff). Therefore, the role that is not part of the Command Staff is the Operations Section Chief.

4. What is a staging area?

- A. A location where personnel and equipment wait for assignments.**
- B. An area where incident communications are processed.**
- C. A field hospital area.**
- D. A command post.**

A staging area is a location near the incident where personnel, equipment, and supplies are kept in a ready state so they can be quickly dispatched to tasks as needed. This setup speeds up response by avoiding delays from pulling resources from far away each time an assignment comes up. It's not where command decisions are made (that's the command post), not a field hospital area, and not the place where incident communications are processed. The idea is to have assets waiting and ready to go, under supervision, to support rapid deployment when tasks are assigned.

5. Which steps are involved in vector control following floods or periods of standing water?

- A. Eliminate standing water; implement larviciding with approved agents; conduct public education on breeding-site elimination; perform targeted adulticiding if appropriate and approved.**
- B. Only use pesticides in all areas regardless of approvals.
- C. Do nothing and wait for mosquitoes.
- D. Use only mechanical traps.

After floods or periods of standing water, the best approach targets mosquitoes at all life stages while using regulated methods. The main idea is integrated vector management: first, eliminate as much standing water as possible to remove breeding sites. When water remains, apply larvicides with approved products to kill larvae before they become adults. Engage the community with public education so households and neighborhoods can remove containers and tip out water that could become new breeding grounds. If surveillance shows a need and the products are approved, perform targeted adulticiding to quickly reduce the adult mosquito population in areas of ongoing risk. This combination addresses the problem comprehensively and within regulatory guidelines. Other approaches fall short because they ignore the need for habitat reduction, rely on unapproved or indiscriminate pesticide use, or focus on a single tactic that's unlikely to control both immature and adult mosquitoes.

6. Which statement best describes the role of the Public Information Officer during an incident?

- A. Direct operation of field units.
- B. Coordinate information dissemination to the public and media.**
- C. Plan logistics.
- D. Account for finances.

Communicating clearly and consistently with the public and the media is the primary job of the Public Information Officer during an incident. This role acts as the official spokesperson and information conduit, translating the incident's developments into understandable, accurate updates for everyone affected and for the news media. The PIO coordinates with the Incident Commander and other command staff to ensure messages reflect the current situation, avoid contradictions, and address public safety guidance, such as evacuations, advisories, or protective actions. This isn't about directing field operations, planning the incident timeline, or handling finances. Those functions belong to other parts of the incident command system: operations leads field actions, planning develops the incident strategy and documents it, logistics supports resources and services, and finance/administration tracks costs. The PIO's focus is external and informational—keeping the public informed and discouraging rumors by providing timely, official information and responding to media inquiries.

7. The specified trench size is designed to handle approximately how many people per day?

- A. 4,000 per day**
- B. 2,000 per day**
- C. 12,000 per day**
- D. 8,000 per day**

Mass-decontamination throughput is planned in terms of people per day based on how many people can be processed per hour and how many hours the line operates. A trench-sized decon setup is typically designed to handle about 1,000 people per hour when run efficiently, so over an 8-hour operation that yields roughly 8,000 people for the day. This makes 8,000 per day a practical, balanced capacity for a single trench system in mass-casualty planning. The other options would require either slower processing or shorter operation (2,000 or 4,000 per day) or much higher flow (12,000 per day) that would need more lines, longer hours, or faster processing than a standard setup.

8. Which of the following is NOT a form of ionizing radiation?

- A. microwave**
- B. alpha particles**
- C. gamma rays**
- D. x-rays**

The main concept is distinguishing ionizing from non-ionizing radiation. Ionizing radiation has enough energy to knock electrons off atoms, causing chemical changes and potential tissue damage. Forms that do ionize include alpha particles and high-energy photons like gamma rays and x-rays, which can penetrate and ionize matter. A microwave, however, is non-ionizing. Its photons don't have enough energy to remove electrons; instead, microwaves heat materials (especially water) by causing molecular rotation and dielectric heating. So while microwaves can cause heating, they don't ionize atoms, making them not a form of ionizing radiation.

9. Which of the following can stop a beta particle?

- A. Wood**
- B. Lead**
- C. Concrete**
- D. Water**

Beta particles are fast electrons with limited penetrating power. They lose energy mainly by ionizing atoms in the material they pass through, so a barrier that isn't too dense and has a modest thickness can stop them effectively. Wood fits this role well because it's a low-density, low-atomic-number material, so a reasonable thickness can absorb most beta particles without producing significant secondary radiation. Lead, while capable of stopping betas, is high in density and can generate bremsstrahlung X-rays when beta particles interact with it, which may require additional shielding. Concrete and water would also stop betas but typically need thicker barriers to achieve the same stopping effect as a thinner wood shield. So, wood is the most practical barrier among the options for stopping a beta particle.

10. How long should water be boiled to disinfect it?

- A. 1-2 minutes
- B. 3-5 minutes**
- C. 6-8 minutes
- D. 10-12 minutes

Boiling water disinfects by inactivating pathogens, so you time it from when the water is at a rolling boil. Boil for about 3 to 5 minutes to ensure a reliable level of disinfection for most ordinary conditions. This 3-5 minute window provides a safety margin to inactivate bacteria, viruses, and protozoa that might be present, especially if the water is a bit turbid. Shorter times, like 1-2 minutes, may not guarantee inactivation in all cases, while longer times (6-12 minutes) don't add meaningful extra protection and simply waste energy. After boiling, let the water cool and store it in clean, covered containers.

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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:

<https://carehdsdisastermgmt.examzify.com>

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

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